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August 1983
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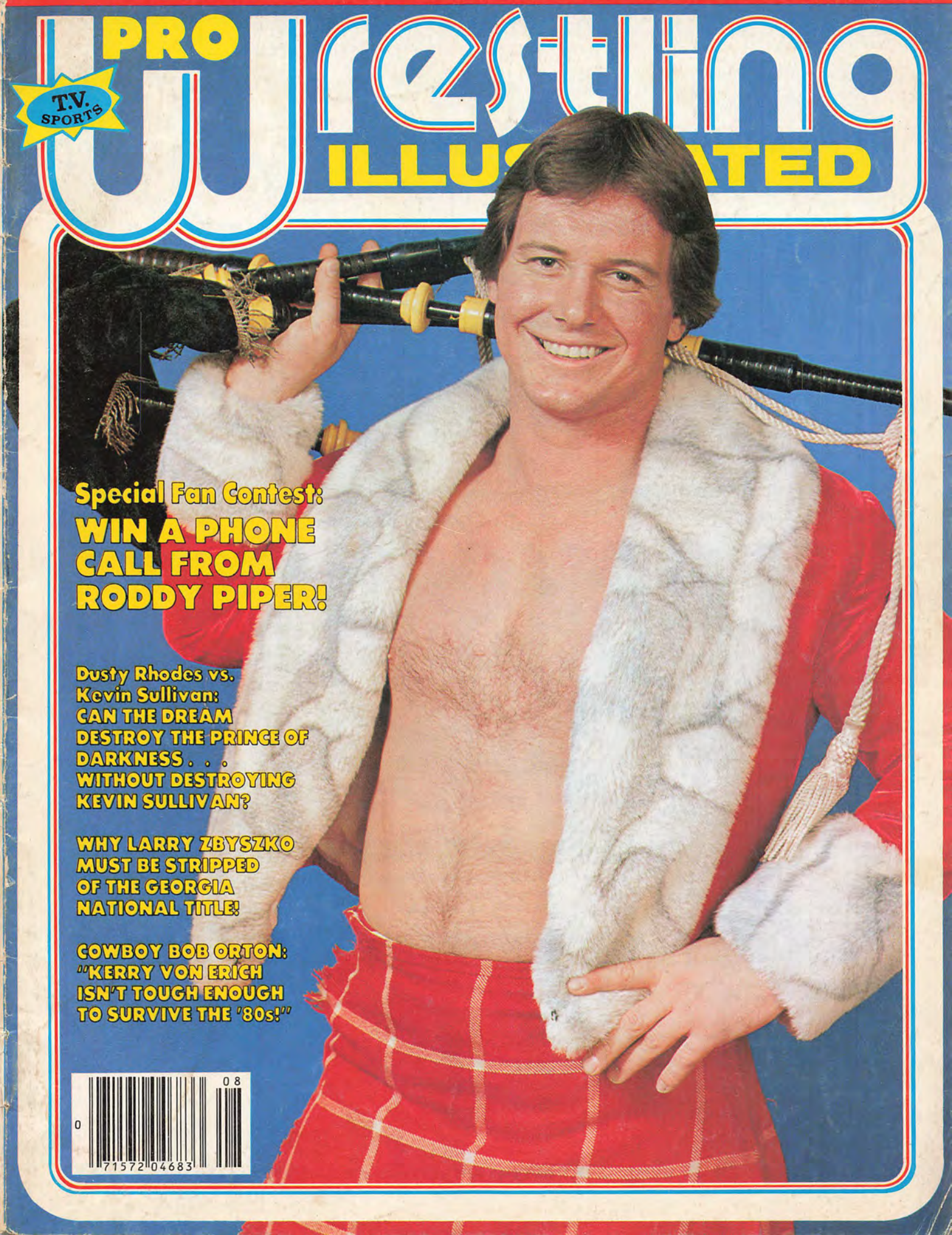

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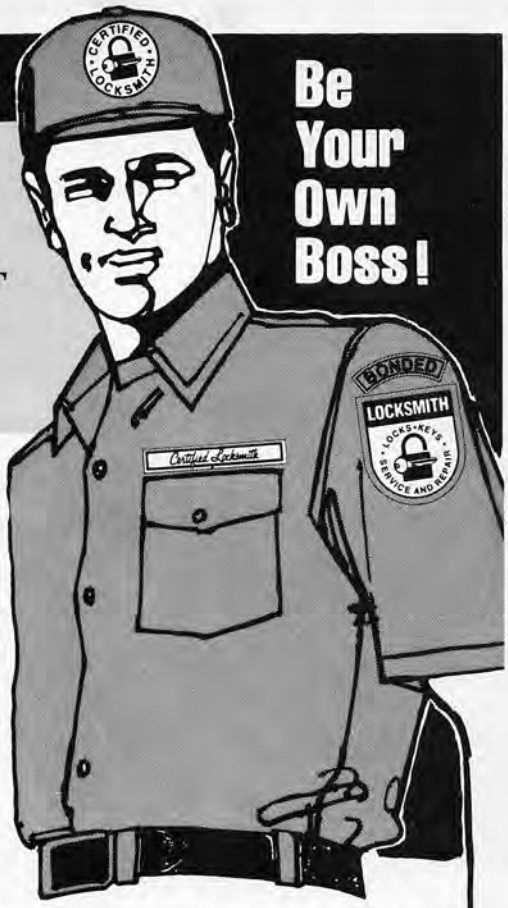

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On the other hand, if it doesn't work the way you expected, it costs you nothing, and a least you have had the satisfaction of trying it at our expense.

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PAGE 22: WRESTLING II SPEAKS

PAGE 30: TALK TO PIPER

Cover:
Roddy Piper by Bill Apter
Larry Zbyszko Centerfold by Bill Apter

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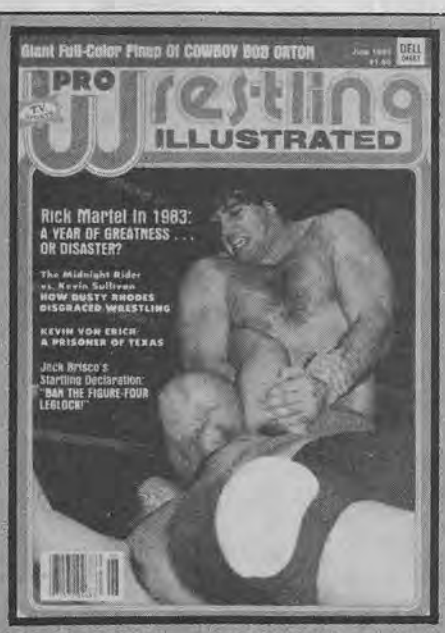
RICK MARTEL IN 1983

Many thanks to Stu Saks for his tremendous story on the sensational Rick Martel ("Rick Martel In 1983: A Year Of Greatness . . . Or Disaster?" *Pro Wrestling Illustrated*/June 1983). Personally, I think 1983 will be Martel's year. He's already wrestled Nick Bockwinkel several times for the AWA title, coming very close to dethroning him each time. If Martel can continue to get matches with Bockwinkel, I think he'll be the new AWA champion before 1983 is over.

SANDRA MARTINE
Minneapolis

Stu Saks made a very astute analysis of Rick Martel's position in the AWA in the June issue of *PWI*. Unfortunately for Saks, he forgot to mention the point that Rick Martel is simply not a very good wrestler. When he got his precious title shot at Nick Bockwinkel, he lost. He got another title shot and lost that one as well. Now I understand he's negotiating for more title shots. Well, he'll lose those, too. Nick Bockwinkel is the AWA champion, and he's going to remain that way for a long, long time.



The June 1983 issue of *PWI* included a controversial story about Rick Martel by Managing Editor Stu Saks.

PHIL COLLINSON
Detroit

Yes, yes, yes! Rick Martel will rule 1983 and every year after that! This is the time for Martel to receive the recognition he so very much deserves. When he was in the WWF, he was a great tag team champion, but that wimp Bob Backlund wouldn't give him a title shot. Now that he's in the AWA, he's getting the title shots he deserves. I'm completely confident that Rick will be the next AWA champion. Nick Bockwinkel's days are numbered.

MARTHA BERKHAM
Chicago

What a story! You echoed my feelings on Rick Martel exactly. I can't wait until he takes the AWA belt from Bockwinkel. Then we'll have a hunk instead of junk as champion.

KIM JENSEN
St. Paul, MN

NWA: TODAY AND TOMORROW

I am a wrestling fan who has, I believe, seen the present and the future of professional wrestling.

Ric Flair is the present. Just look at his record: Rookie of the Year and world champion a few years after that. The live matches and tapes I have seen of Flair in action all show an excellent wrestler who, by the nature of his title, must defend against the most vicious rulebreakers as well as the most skilled scientific wrestlers.

Kerry Von Erich is the future. This man wins the highest percentage of matches I have ever seen, and this has been while Kabuki is in Texas, so it is surprising. He has also wrestled Ric Flair several times, with Flair retaining his title only through disqualifications or draws.

JIM CRAWFORD
Fort Worth, TX

A PAPER CHAMPION

I'm tired of the way the fans adore Bob Backlund. Sure, Backlund's turned back challenges of wrestlers like Superstar Graham and Jimmy Snuka, but the way Snuka has changed I doubt Backlund could beat him now. But does Backlund take scientific challenges? No! I doubt it very much if he would wrestle Rocky Johnson, Pedro Morales, or even Eddie Gilbert. Backlund's reign will be over soon . . . I hope.

CHRIS VAUREK
Clarion, PA

A MAN TO BE FEARED

This letter is in reference to an article in your May 1983 issue of *PWI* entitled "Barry Windham: One Man Against An Army." The article says a lot for the man, and in my opinion it's the type of recognition Windham deserves. But he is not alone any longer. It seems that Ron Bass is sharing the

(Continued on page 50)

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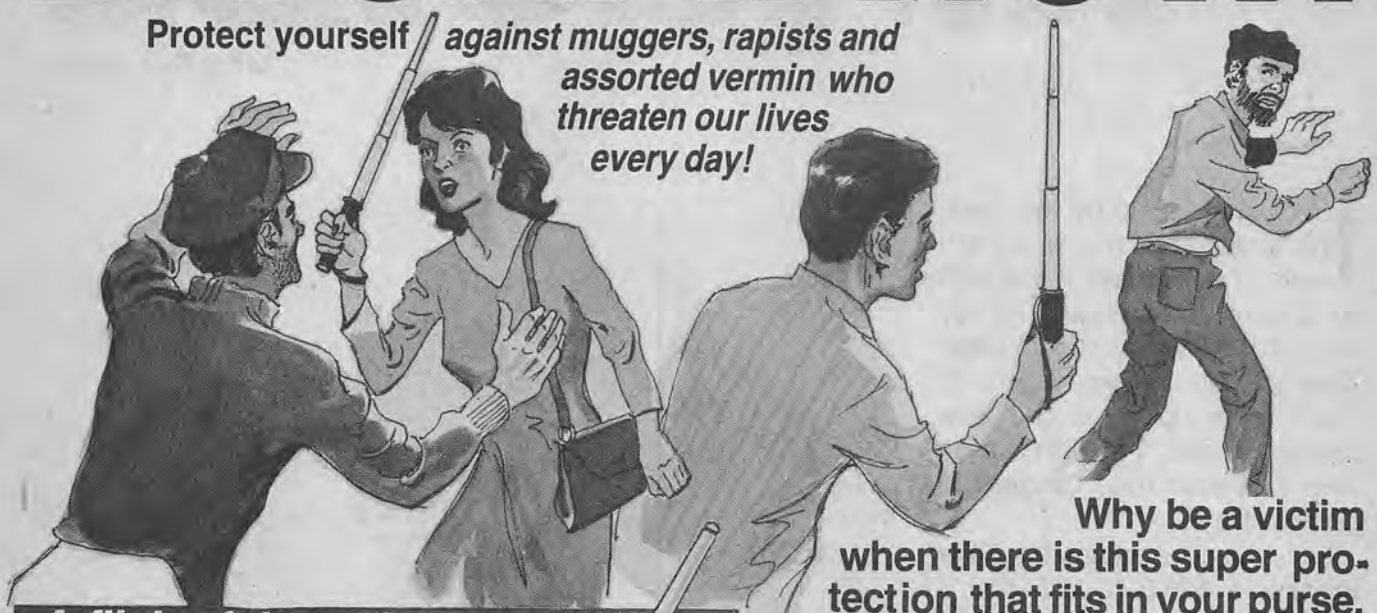

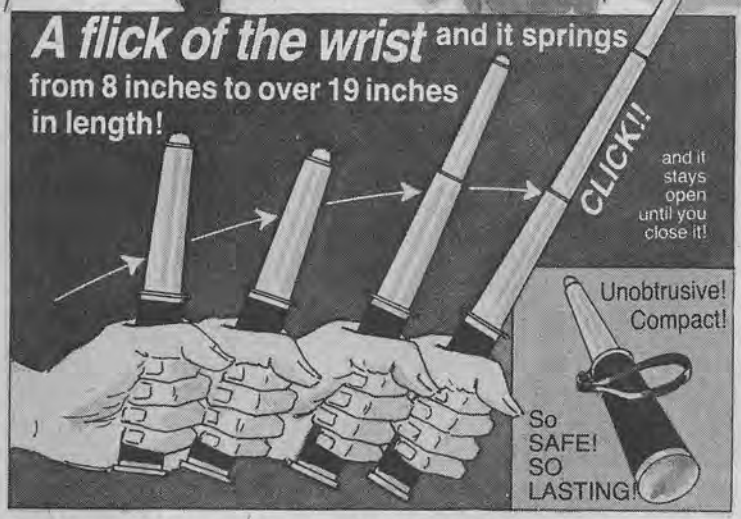

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RINGSIDE

With Bill Apter

I WOULD LIKE to be the Georgia National champion. So all I have to do is make a deal with an upcoming challenger and buy the belt if he wins it, right? **Larry Zbyszko** did it, why can't I? That's right: Larry is the new champion, and he didn't even have to wrestle **Paul Orndorff** to get the title.

Larry made a deal with **Killer Brooks**—a $25,000 deal—that if Brooks won, Larry would buy the belt. Granted, Larry did have a hand in the outcome, interfering on Brooks' behalf throughout the match. In fact, Zbyszko had a direct impact on the match's conclusion: Orndorff had Brooks in a pinning position. From ringside, Zbyszko reached in and draped Brooks' foot over the bottom rope and alerted referee **Nick Patrick** to the illegality of the pin. Seconds later, Brooks maneuvered Orndorff into a pinning position, but the champion managed to drape his foot over the bottom rope at the "one" count. Zbyszko pushed Paul's foot off the ropes at the "three" count. Paul protested that his foot was indeed on the ropes, but referee Patrick did not see it. Brooks was declared winner and held the title only long enough to hand it over to the "New Living Legend." What a way to win a title! You should be real proud of yourself, Larry.

All hell broke loose in Texas during **Tully Blanchard** and **Gino Hernandez's** title match against the Southwest tag team champion **Grapplers**. Tully and Gino won the belts, but left the ring as bitter enemies. Several events led up to the split: At one point in the match (which was televised nationally over the USA Network), Gino had one Grappler in a full nelson. Tully attempted to punch the masked man, but the Grappler ducked and Tully hit Gino. It was an accident. A few minutes later, Gino was captured in a headlock. He used all his strength to catapult his opponent into the ropes. Unfortunately, Tully happened to be on the ring apron and the Grappler smashed right into him, sending Tully crashing to the floor. That, too, was an accident. Gino, taken by the excitement of the crowd and not realizing what had happened, went on to press the Grappler for the win as Tully lay on the floor in a semi-conscious state. The referee took the belts, handed one to Gino and the other to Tully, who had climbed back into the ring. Gino offered a handshake to his friend

(Continued on page 54)

Though The Grapplers lost their Southwest tag team titles to Gino Hernandez and Tully Blanchard, they later regained the title in an elimination tournament, topping Mando Guerrero and Bob Sweetan in the final round.

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Revolves just like authentic police emergency light. Attach to car roof or dashboard in seconds. Also makes excellent psychedelic party light. Really get into the music & the mood with brilliant red beams revolving eerily around the room. With suction cup base for fast attachment. About 6" tall. Uses standard batteries.
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NEARLY 3 FEET LONG!
Realistic. Threatening glare. Slimy feel. Guaranteed big & especially scary.
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Powerful, yet fits pocket like pen. Magnifies several times original size. Brings distant objects closer. Attractive finish.
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New HOVERCRAFT glides like magic over floors, sidewalks, EVEN WATER! Sleek car of the future uses principle of air suspension to ride on cushion of air above most any surface. Colorful plastic. 8"x9"x2" high. 4" propeller. 48" control line from push button remote control unit. Simply press switch and this beauty rises and floats in any direction you wish. Illustrates frictionless motion principles of full size experimental vehicles already in use. Not a kit. Ready-to-run except for 2 "D" batteries (not included).
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Make Him Move, Act Life-Like, Seem to Talk, Sing, Laugh.
Full length 16-inch dummy with control to operate mouth and move head. No practice needed. "Talks" at once. Make him sit, stand, even dance and act alive! Fully dressed in colorful tailored suit. Molded plastic, natural finish head. Moveable arms and legs. INCLUDED FREE: 5-Minute Lesson on How to Throw Your Voice (With or without dummy). Fool friends as voices seem to come from under bed, behind doors, etc.
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KING'S COURT

By Peter King

"Bruno! Bruno! Bruno!"

THOUSANDS OF FANS screamed his name in unison every time he stepped inside a wrestling ring. And indeed, his is one of the great names in the history of athletics. Baseball has produced Babe Ruth, basketball has produced Bill Russell, and boxing has produced Muhammad Ali. But wrestling has produced the most popular athlete of all, Bruno Sammartino.

Bruno owned the '60s and '70s. He performed in front of more fans than any other athlete. And the fans appreciated that he always gave everything he had to give, both as a wrestler and as a man.

Bruno Sammartino, perhaps the greatest wrestler of all time, signs autographs for the fans before a 1970 WWF title defense in Butler, Pennsylvania.

Today, wrestling has more than its share of great stars. In fact, never before have so many great athletes been involved in the sport. Yes, there are many great stars. But there is no Living Legend anymore.

But that may change.

"I am thinking about coming out of retirement." Those eight words came out of the telephone receiver and hit me with the impact of machine gun fire. The words were spoken, of course, by Bruno Sammartino.

"Now don't go screaming 'Stop the presses!'" Bruno continued, laughing. "I only said I'm thinking about it. There's nothing definite."

Still, this is an important announcement. Only a year ago, Bruno said he would not consider returning to professional wrestling under any circumstances. If doing comes after thinking, we may see Bruno back in the ring in a very short time.

But could Bruno make a successful comeback? Many other athletes have tried and failed to come back after retiring. Would Bruno be able to regain his championship form or would he be at something less than his peak? It's a question that Bruno himself has thought about—and answered.

"I would never come back to wrestling—doggone it, I wouldn't even *think* about coming back—if I wasn't 100 percent physically. If anything, I would be even better than when I left, because my body has had time to heal from the continuous grind of wrestling day in and day out. It's the mental part that concerns me—can I still pysch myself up for a match? When I know I can answer that question with a yes, then I'll *really* consider a comeback."

Most experts believe that if Bruno does come back, he will be just as good as—if not better than—when he left.

(Continued on page 52)

MONEY BACK GUARANTEE!

BALDNESS CURE?

EXCLUSIVE

'The progressive re-growth of hair is not in question'.

According to the Federal Trade Commission nothing now exists that can re-grow hair on a balding scalp.

Although **scores of satisfied clients,** both men and women, that once suffered from the problems of baldness **are convinced** the formula known as **MEDI-TEC 90™ was the cause for their regrowth of hair,** their own documented testimonials stating the incredible results achieved with the use of MEDI-TEC 90™ is not what the Federal Trade Commission calls acceptable proof.

NOTE: The actual file photographs shown on this page, photographs of the progressive re-growth of the hair experienced while using MEDI-TEC 90™ have not been altered.

SEEING IS BELIEVING

But with the complex regulations binding the F.T.C., the possibility of coincidence prohibits F.T.C. endorsements.

FACT: That there is a definite progressive regrowth of hair while under the MEDI-TEC 90™ program is not in question.

WHAT WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE REGROWTH OF HAIR?

For the many who have used MEDI-TEC 90™ and experienced the regrowth of hair. The daily application of the MEDI-TEC 90™ solution was the cause. They feel, as the following testimonials state, that without the daily application of MEDI-TEC 90™ their suffering and embarassment would not have ended.

"I'm writing you this letter because I must apologize. When my husband ordered your product I was mad. Throwing money away on some worthless product again. But now after about 5 weeks hair is growing. I can see it myself with my own eyes." **Mrs. S.C.**

"I started using your formula at — — (a well known private clinic). Now I apply it (MEDI-TEC 90™) myself at home. The formula works — my hair has grown on the balding areas and it only cost me 1/3 the price." **Mr. P.G.**

"What more can I say but thank you, thank you, thank you." **Mr. L.M.**

"Besides the fact that your product works...It's easy to use, no odor and not greasy!!" **Mr. H.B.**

"Your product has done more for me than grow hair on my scalp...It has given me back my confidence..." **Mr. C.D.**

NOTICE

The above testimonials, although real, true, and documented, are ignored by the "ENLIGHTENED" Medical Community in the U.S. because "THEY" state there is no known cure for baldness (that is, no known cure that "THEY" are aware of). However, the European "ENLIGHTENED" Medical Community, not as set in their ways, disagrees and ACCEPTS the use of various "baldness" preparations. While all the "ENLIGHTENED" Medical Communities are bickering about who is right, and who is wrong, THOUSANDS OF OUR CLIENTS ARE OVERJOYED WITH THE RESULTS THEY, THEIR FAMILY, FRIENDS, AND CO-WORKERS CAN SEE WITH THEIR OWN EYES.

If you want to be one of the thousands who regularly use and testify to the success of MEDI-TEC 90™, NO ENLIGHTENED MEDICAL COMMUNITY ON THE FACE OF THE EARTH CAN STOP YOU.

WHAT CAN YOU EXPECT FROM MEDI-TEC 90™?

THE PHOTOS SHOWN ARE NOT STUDIO PHOTOS. THEY WERE TAKEN BY AN ACTUAL CLIENT AT HOME. THE POOR REPRODUCTION ON THIS PAGE IS DUE TO THAT FACT.

SEE RESULTS IN WEEKS.

The fast acting MEDI-TEC 90™ Formula will start to work immediately. This exclusive formula will begin to allow the hair follicle to "breath." In 2-4 weeks you will start to see evidence of new hair growth in previously bald or thinner areas. After that your new hair will gradually continue to fill in and thicken.

MEDI-TEC 90™—THE ODORLESS, GREASELESS, EASY TO USE FORMULA

This powerfully effective formula is easy to use. It is odorless, it is greaseless, and it is easily applied with a spray applicator that is supplied at no extra charge. Simply spray MEDI-TEC 90™ onto the thinning or balding areas of the scalp a few times each day. You will see results. GUARANTEED!

CERTIFIED GUARANTEE:

The only claim the Robertson-Taylor Co. makes is this: For whatever reason, (medical or otherwise), our clients have seen a DEFINITE improvement in the appearance of their hair and scalp.

The Robertson-Taylor Co. stakes its entire reputation on the incredible results achieved by thousands while using MEDI-TEC 90™ Formulations. We urge you not to miss this opportunity.

Our guarantee contains no "fine print" nor misleading terms. Simply stated, if you use our fine MEDI-TEC 90™ Formulations and do not see the same positive results experienced by thousands of our most satisfied clients, we will refund the entire purchase price. (We do not believe you should pay your hard earned money for something that does not work.) Again, let us restate: If for any reason MEDI-TEC 90™ Formulations do not work for you, your money will be refunded promptly. There is no reason not to try to better yourself. Others have tried and have been overwhelmed with the visible results. CAN THOUSANDS OF SATISFIED CLIENTS BE WRONG?

ORDER MEDI-TEC 90™ NOW!

Thank you,
The Robertson-Taylor Co.

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THE ROBERTSON-TAYLOR CO., A DIVISION OF INTRA-MEDIC FORMULATIONS, INC.

DRESSING CONFIDENTIAL ROOM

By Stu Saks

IT IS VERY hard to determine what goes on in the mind of a professional wrestler. As a reporter, I can ask questions and make analyses, but I can never be asbolutely sure if the answers I am receiving are honest reflections of how the wrestlers actually feel.

Recently, a scheduled title match between AWA World champion Nick Bockwinkel and challenger Hulk Hogan was delayed three weeks at the as yet unexplained insistence of the champion's manager, Bobby Heenan. There is an ugly rumor spreading through the wrestling community that the manager demanded the time so that he could arrange a $10,000 cash bounty for any wrestler who could physically eliminate Hogan from title contention.

Bobby Heenan is always wheeling and dealing, looking for any kind of an edge he can get for AWA World champion Nick Bockwinkel. Unscrupulous, maybe. Effective, yes.

Being that I had been assigned to cover the scheduled title match, it became my responsibilty to investigate the rumor. I asked all the obligatory questions of the parties involved and came back with very little more than a "no comment" from Heenan and a "who cares anyway" response from Hogan. I wasn't surprised. Of course Heenan is not going to admit to such a serious charge and risk suspension. Of course Hogan is not going to admit to being mentally affected by the potential danger he faces.

How Heenan and Hogan actually feel about the situation is a matter for speculation. So let's put ourselves in their places and speculate.

***

You are Bobby Heenan. You are the manager of a world champion who is presently faced with what could well be the most dangerous array of challengers ever assembled in the same wrestling association. You are worried. You have seen your champion, as great as he has performed in the past, stumble in recent months. The night after night grind is beginning to get to him.

By AWA edict, your wrestler is forced to defend his title against

(Continued on page 56)

COMING SOON . . .

PRO Wrestling ILLUSTRATED ANNUAL

T.V. SPORTS

★★★★★ ★ANNUAL★ ★★★★★

Be on the lookout . . .
Pro Wrestling Illustrated Annual/Summer
will soon be on sale at your local newsstand!

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HERE'S A PARTIAL LIST OF WHAT'S INSIDE THIS GREAT MAGAZINE:

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• FULL-COLOR PINUP OF HULK HOGAN!

• FULL-COLOR PINUP OF SUPERFLY SNUKA!

• FULL-COLOR PINUP OF TOMMY RICH!

• FULL-COLOR PINUP OF RIC FLAIR!

• HULK HOGAN: "I WILL CONTROL WRESTLING IN THE '80s!"
• CAN JIMMY SNUKA SURVIVE WITHOUT CAPT. LOU ALBANO?
• TOMMY RICH SILENCES THE GHOSTS OF HIS PAST
• RIC FLAIR LEARNS . . . THE PRICE OF BEING CHAMPION IS BLOOD!

PLUS ALL THE EXCITING AND AWARD-WINNING COLUMNS FROM PWI

If you don't see *PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED ANNUAL/SUMMER* on sale at your local newsstand . . . DEMAND IT!

NEWS

With CRAIG PETERS

EXOTIC IS RIGHT!

Strange things going on in Florida, and strange things going on in the mind of James J. Dillon.

Have you seen anything stranger than Exotic Adrian Street? The former Americas champion wears more leather than Adrian Adonis, more makeup than Kamala, and is also a superb wrestler.

"I'm not going to say that this is the wrestler who will give me a corner on the Florida wrestling market," Dillon told *Pro Wrestling Illustrated,* "because I *already* rule all of Florida wrestling. But this is a wrestler who will cause a lot of people a lot of trouble. Exotic Adrian has a completely different style that will baffle everyone.

"The fans had better hold on to their seats," Dillon continued, "because this marks a new era in Florida wrestling, the era of Exotic Adrian Street!"

It should be a strange era, indeed!

EXOTIC ADRIAN STREET

NEVER MIND!

Back in the May 1983 issue of *Pro Wrestling Illustrated*, in this very column, I stated that if The Samoans defeated the Strongbow brothers, it would be "the first time in history any WWF tag team has worn the belts three times."

The Samoans defeated the Strongbows, but I was wrong with my historical point. Randy Wright of Washington, D.C., Tim McGuinn of Providence, Rhode Island, and Ken Tonis of Brockton, Massachusetts all wrote in to tell me so.

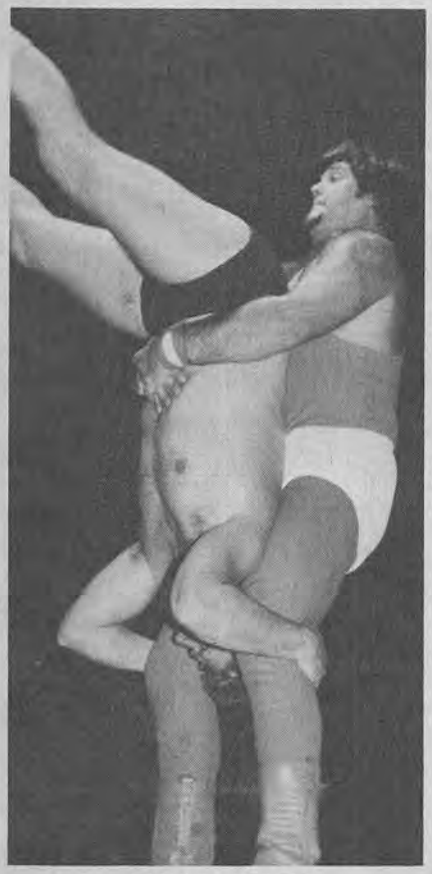
Prof. Toru Tanaka and Mr. Fuji wore the belts three times, winning the title from Sonny King and Chief Jay Strongbow (June 27, 1972), Haystacks Calhoun and Tony Garea (September 11, 1973), and Tony Garea and Larry Zbyszko (September 27, 1977).

Thanks to those who wrote in. It's good to know that there are historians out there to keep everyone here at *PWI* on our toes.

THE FUROR CONTINUES

The movement to ban the piledriver completely from professional wrestling is continuing stronger than ever.

Jerry Lawler has been using the dangerous move all through the AWA and in his native Tennessee. Bruiser Bob Sweetan has



JERRY LAWLER

been terrorizing Texas wrestling rings with the piledriver. Roddy Piper nearly crippled Charlie Cook for life in Florida recently as a result of using the deadly move.

Our offices here at *PWI* receive letters every day about banning

SIX-MAN CHAOS IN TEXAS

One of the nation's most violent and brutal feuds is sweeping through Texas.

Michael Hayes, Terry Gordy, and Buddy Roberts—The Fabulous Freebirds—are the current World Class Six-Man tag team champions. They also claim supremacy over all of Texas in two-man tag team matches and singles competition.

Hot on their heels for the belts—and far beyond the 'Birds in the hearts of Texas fans—are Kerry, David, and Kevin Von Erich.

If it were up to Texas fans, the Von Erich brothers would rule the state. The Freebirds, however, have been posing considerable opposition in every wrestling ring across Texas. The brothers nevertheless remain determined to capture the belts for themselves and, more important, for their fans.

THE FREEBIRDS—GORDY, HAYES, & ROBERTS

CONGRATULATIONS!

According to our publishing schedule, this magazine will hit the newsstands on May 24, 1983. This means that by the time you

"I'm very lucky to have found Andrea," Apter said. "She understands me and knows the demands of my job as a wrestling

BACK ISSUES OF INSIDE WRESTLING

SOLD OUT	APR/74	SOLD OUT	JULY/74	AUG/74	SEPT/74	NOV/74	SOLD OUT				
SOLD OUT	APR/75	JUNE/75	AUG/75	SEPT/75	OCT/75	SOLD OUT	DEC/75	JAN/76	FEB/76	MAR/76	APR/76
SOLD OUT	JUNE/76	JULY/76	AUG/76	SEPT/76	OCT/76	NOV/76	DEC/76	JAN/77	FEB/77	SOLD OUT	MAY/77
JUNE/77	JULY/77	AUG/77	SEPT/77	OCT/77	NOV/77	DEC/77	JAN/78	FEB/78	MAR/78	APR/78	MAY/78
SOLD OUT	AUG/78	OCT/78	NOV/78	DEC/78	JAN/79	FEB/79	SOLD OUT	APR/79	MAY/79	JUNE/79	JULY/79
AUG/79	SEPT/79	OCT/79	SOLD OUT	SOLD OUT	JAN/80	FEB/80	MAR/80	APR/80	MAY/80	JUNE/80	JULY/80
AUG/80	SEPT/80	SOLD OUT	NOV/80	JAN/81	FEB/81	APR/81	MAY/81	JUNE/81	JULY/81	SOLD OUT	SEPT/81
OCT/81	NOV/81	DEC/81	JAN/82	FEB/82	MAR/82	APR/82	MAY/82	JUNE/82	JULY/82	AUG/82	SEPT/82
OCT/82	NOV/82	DEC/82	JAN/83	FEB/83	MAR/83	APR/83	MAY/83	JUNE/83	JULY/83		

BACK ISSUES OF THE WRESTLER

SOLD OUT	SOLD OUT	SOLD OUT	SEPT/74	DEC/74	FEB/75	JUNE/75	JULY/75				
AUG/75	SEPT/75	SOLD OUT	NOV/75	DEC/75	JAN/76	FEB/76	MAR/76	JUNE/76	JULY/76	SOLD OUT	SOLD OUT
NOV/76	DEC/76	JAN/77	FEB/77	APR/77	MAY/77	JUNE/77	JULY/77	OCT/77	NOV/77	FEB/78	MAR/78
SOLD OUT	SOLD OUT	SEPT/78	OCT/78	NOV/78	DEC/78	FEB/79	MAR/79	MAY/79	JULY/79	AUG/79	SEPT/79
OCT/79	SOLD OUT	DEC/79	JAN/80	FEB/80	MAR/80	APR/80	MAY/80	JUNE/80	JULY/80	AUG/80	SEPT/80
OCT/80	NOV/80	JAN/81	FEB/81	MAR/81	SOLD OUT	MAY/81	JUNE/81	JULY/81	AUG/81	SEPT/81	OCT/81
NOV/81	DEC/81	JAN/82	SOLD OUT	MAR/82	APR/82	MAY/82	JUNE/82	JULY/82	AUG/82	SEPT/82	OCT/82
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ON ASSIGNMENT

BY LIZ HUNTER

Did Jimmy Snuka ever call Liz Hunter "pretty mama"? Debi K. Wolfe, a reader from Nicktown, Pennsylvania, doesn't think so. Debi feels Hunter has a good imagination, but she doesn't like the reporter's personalized approach.

PART OF THE enjoyment of being a reporter for *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* is the fact that I receive dozens of letters each week.

I like mail. Sometimes I get praised, sometimes I get criticized. But unless the writer is a complete illiterate, I usually learn something from every letter I receive, anything else in the magazine. Whatever it is, I get plenty of reaction, and I thank everyone who has written to me.

One recent letter in particular struck home, and I'd like to share it with you now:

Dear Pro Wrestling Illustrated*:*

I would like to comment on the column "On Assignment" by Liz never get a chance to attend.

I couldn't care less where and with whom Liz celebrates her New Year's. I believe the cover of this magazine reads Pro Wrestling Illustrated, *not* Liz Hunter's Pro Wrestling Romances.

I don't believe Tony Garea ever called Liz "love" or that Jimmy Snuka named her a "pretty mama." All these expressed words must come from Liz's own imagination.

I don't believe that Playboy Buddy Rose would ever kiss her on the neck, just as I don't believe Tony Garea would kiss her on the cheek. I would like to know what all this kissy-face has to do with professional wrestling, and why Liz must report it to the readers?

I agree with Editor-in-Chief Peter King (quoted in "On Assignment" from the June 1983 issue of PWI), *stressing for Liz not to become "too chummy with the people [Liz attempts] to report on."*

Peter King, I would like to see the reappearance of Steve Farhood in the "On Assignment" column. His writing abilities are

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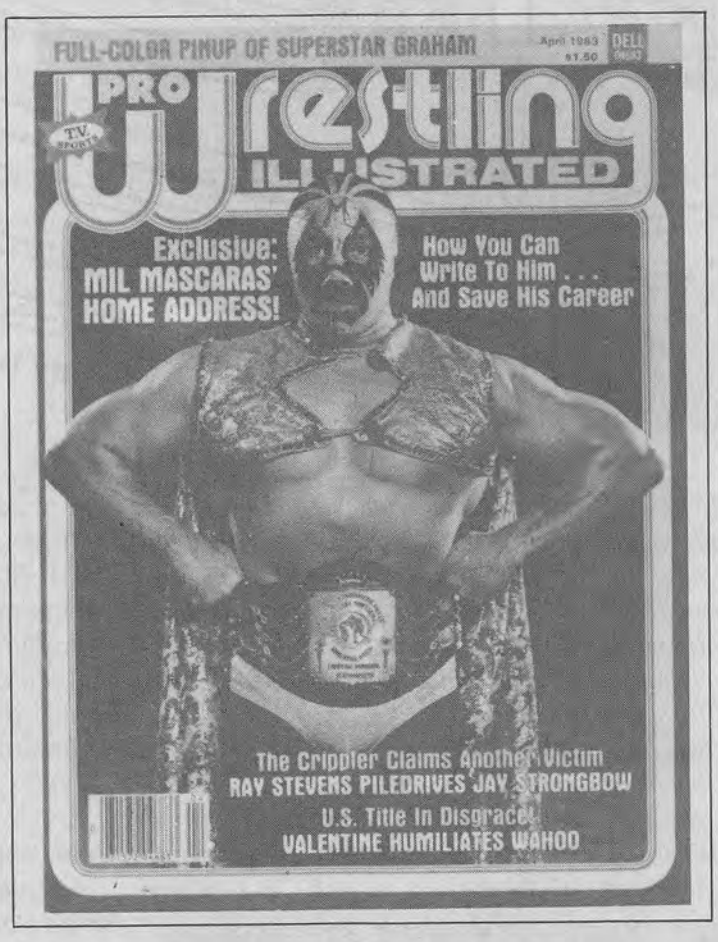

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OFF THE TOP ROPE

By Dan Shocket

SURPRISE OF SURPRISES, gang. The brave and courageous fan favorites have refused to accept my challenge. As readers may remember, I offered to wrestle any professional grappler upset with what I write. All I asked in return was a 100-word essay explaining why I should break a sweat battling this bozo. Not one wrestler sent in an essay. What can we learn from this? Are fan favorities illiterate? Are they cowards? Are they stupid? Are they all of the above? I leave the answers to the thousands of disappointed readers. Speaking of those readers, let's see what they have to say this month.

Dear Dan,

I used to like you.

I liked the "Tommy Rich is worsmlime because . . ." contest because he's a jerk. But when you call Dusty Rhodes wormslime, you're over your head. Dusty is not even close to wormslime. You're closer to wormslime than he is. If I were you, I'd stick to calling people like Roddy Piper and Tommy Rich wormslime.

KARON FRYE
Tampa, FL

Dear Karon,

As devastating as it is to know you no longer like me, I'll try to muddle through, nonetheless. First, I never called Roddy Piper wormslime; my complicated opinion of this great but troubled wrestler is too long to be explained here. Second, there is no insult that Dusty Rhodes doesn't deserve. This preening clod is a disgrace to professional athletics, the human race, and all living organisms. His success reflects the same corruption of standards that gave us Bob Backlund, Kiss, and LeRoy Neiman.

Dear Geek!

You are an incredibly arrogant ignoramus. Every time you write your column you prove it.

You wrote that Rick Martel's fans are taken in by his good

As long as Piper can maintain the aggressive style and doesn't concern himself with the fans, he can fulfill his potential. I have never called this man wormslime.

Rick Martel, flower in hand and a twinkle in his eye, has been very successful throughout his career. Anyone who can make it this far on looks alone has to be characterized as a success.

looks. This is not true. Rick is not only a gorgeous hunk, he is a terrific wrestler. He has proven himself more than a worthy opponent. It is just a matter of time before he gets the belt from that dirtball, Nick Bockwinkel. May I suggest that you watch his ability instead of his marvelous physique. It might change your grossly distorted opinion.

SHARON KASTEN
Sturgeon Bay, WI

Dear Geekette!

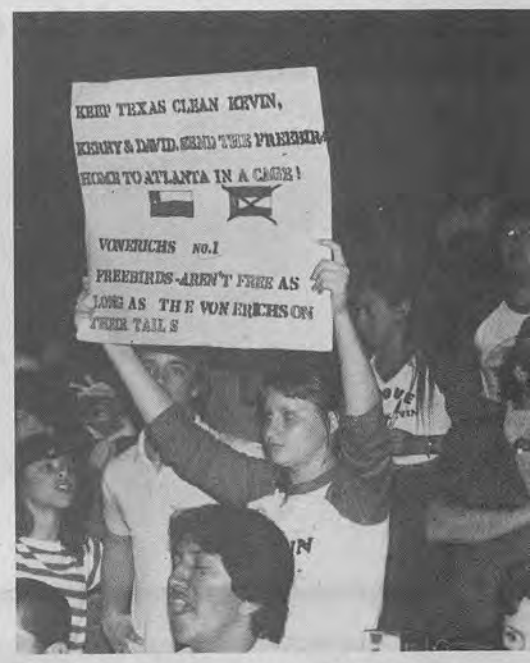
When I was once as young and foolish as you, I believed Raquel Welch was an actress. I am older and wiser now, and willing to admit the lady's beauty fogged my critical faculties. Don't worry. Someday, your hormones will no longer contaminate the synapses of your brain and you'll be able to admit Martel is a pretty boy but a lousy wrestler. Until then, please send all future letters to Teen Beat.

Dear Mr. Shocket:

When I first began reading your column, I felt that your views on the wrestling scene couldn't be further from the truth. However, certain past events have altered my way of thinking. It seems that I, as well as many wrestlers, should be taking a closer look at your column.

Such as: 1) Bob Backlund continues to prove that his best hold is not the chicken wing but his hold on WWF referees and commissioners. 2) Roddy Piper, perhaps the greatest wrestler in the NWA, was forced from *World Championship Wrestling* from Georgia due to a disgraceful fan poll. It not only deprived Mr. Piper of his livelihood, but was the most blatant form of censorship imaginable. 3) The most aggressive tag team in wrestling history, The Fabulous Freebirds, were torn apart by something called fan acceptance. (Fortunately, they have since regrouped.)

As the astute B. Holliday wrote, Bob Backlund's best hold is on the referees, in this case Scrappy McGowan.



A young fan holds up a sign of good times ahead for The Freebirds. Their careers, stymied briefly by a brief stint as fan favorites, is moving ahead full speed.

I may not agree with your opinions totally, but I think wrestling fans should respect your right to express them.

B. HOLLIDAY
Wheeling, WV

Dear B. Holliday,

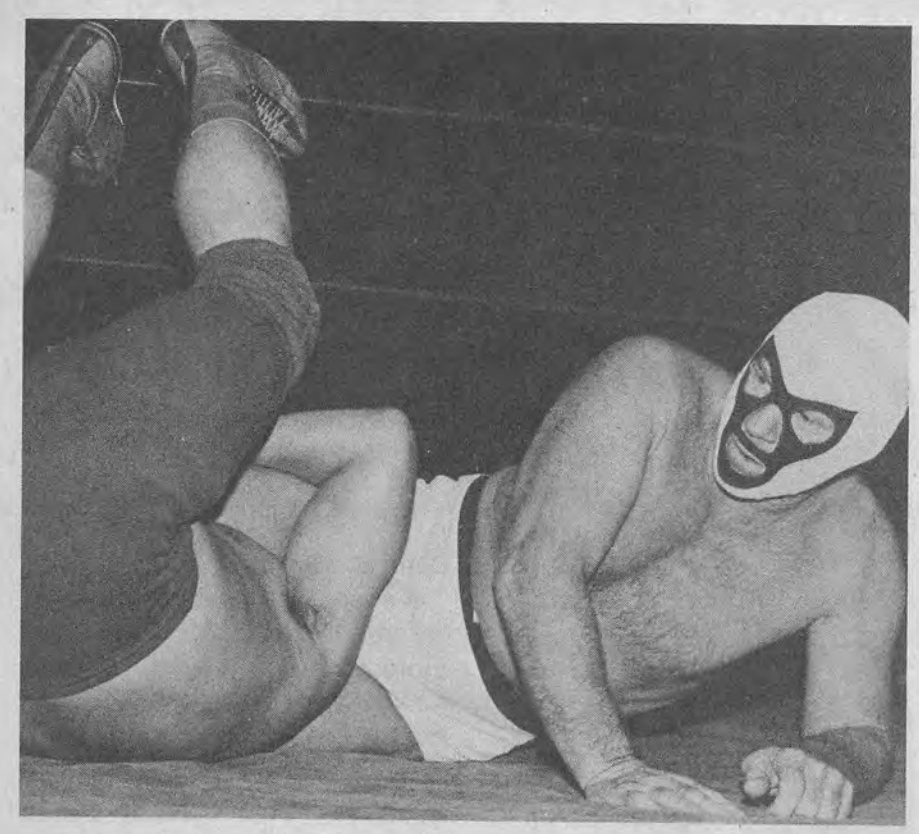
It's so heartening to receive letters like yours. More and more come in every day. It makes a man believe there is hope.

And now, an extra added attraction from Richard Letsh: Tommy Rich is wormslime because his IQ is lower than room temperature in an igloo. □

Every issue, three reporters from PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED will participate in an incisive press conference with a top wrestling star. The questions will be demanding. And the answers will reveal the innermost thoughts of the giants of the sport

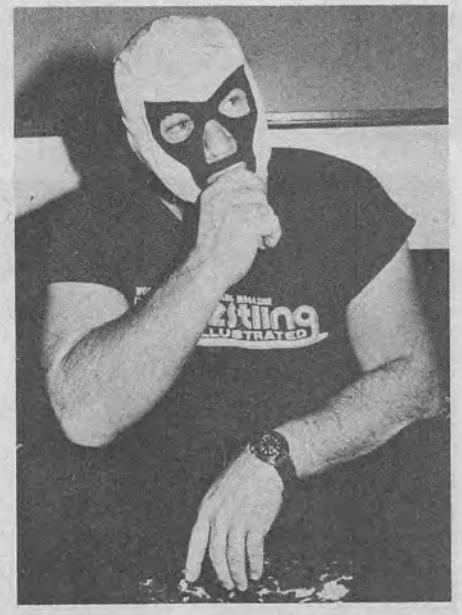
PRESS CONFERENCE

MR. WRESTLING II



(As one of the mat sport's premier masked wrestlers, Mr. Wrestling II has long set an example of sportsmanship and fair play for fans and professionals alike. Unlike another extremely popular masked wrestler, Mil Mascaras, who travels worldwide, Mr. Wrestling II prefers to remain in the United States, centering his activities in the Georgia, Mid-Atlantic, and Texas wrestling areas. Now wrestling in the Houston area, the team of Mr. Wrestling II and Tiger Conway Jr. recently captured the Mid-South tag team belts. Senior Editor Bill Apter, and Associate Editors Craig Peters and Dan Shocket recently met with Wrestling II in Texas to discuss his new championship, and his developing feud with Mr. Olympia.)

"My mask is a symbol of what I am. It represents my beliefs. Defame the mask and you've defamed me personally."



BILL APTER: There's quite a furor here in Texas surrounding you and Mr. Olympia. Could you explain that situation to our readers?

MR. WRESTLING II: Certainly. You're aware, of course, of the fact that for many long weeks I've had masks stolen, defamed with ink, and worse.

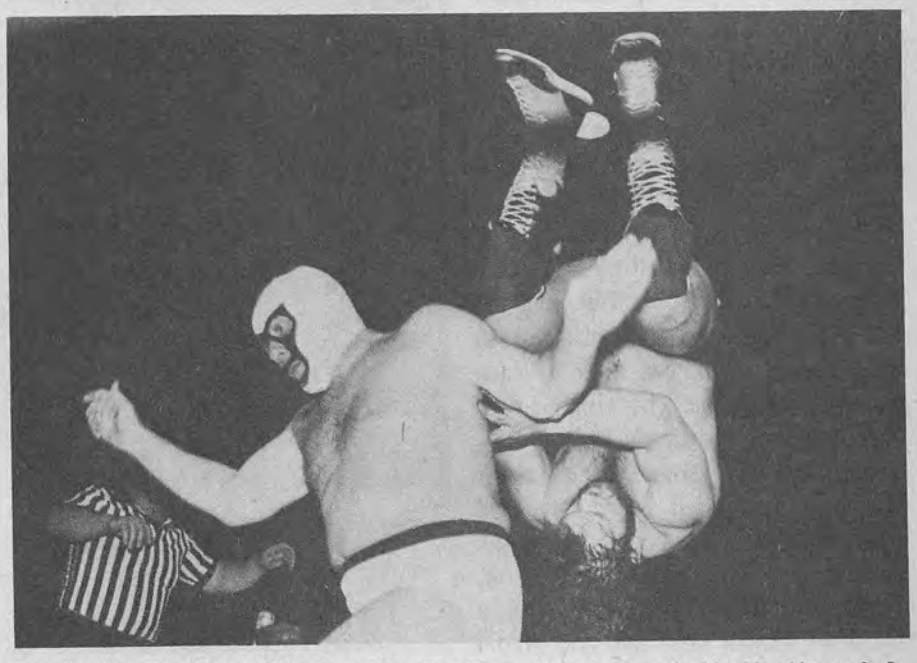
DAN SHOCKET: So what? Haven't you got plenty of masks?

WRESTLING II: That's not the point, Shocket. The point is that my mask is a symbol of what I am. It represents my beliefs. It is seen by the public and quickly recognized. Defame the mask and you've defamed me personally.

CRAIG PETERS: So when you discovered that someone was putting marks on your masks . . .

WRESTLING II: I was upset, naturally. Well, I had my suspicions about who was doing it. For a while I thought it was Kamala and Skandor Akbar who were behind all of this. But everything came to a head one day when I was walking through the dressing room area and accidentally bumped into a suitcase. The case opened and inside were several threatening notes to myself, several of my discolored masks, and various sorts of paints, inks, gloves, boots, all kinds of materials. I asked whose bag it

(Continued on page 62)



Mr. Wrestling II backdrops Matt Borne. Wrestling II can always be recognized by his white mask. It symbolizes the purity he wishes for the sport of wrestling.

WAHOO McDANIEL: THE AWA'S MOST DANGEROUS CONTENDER

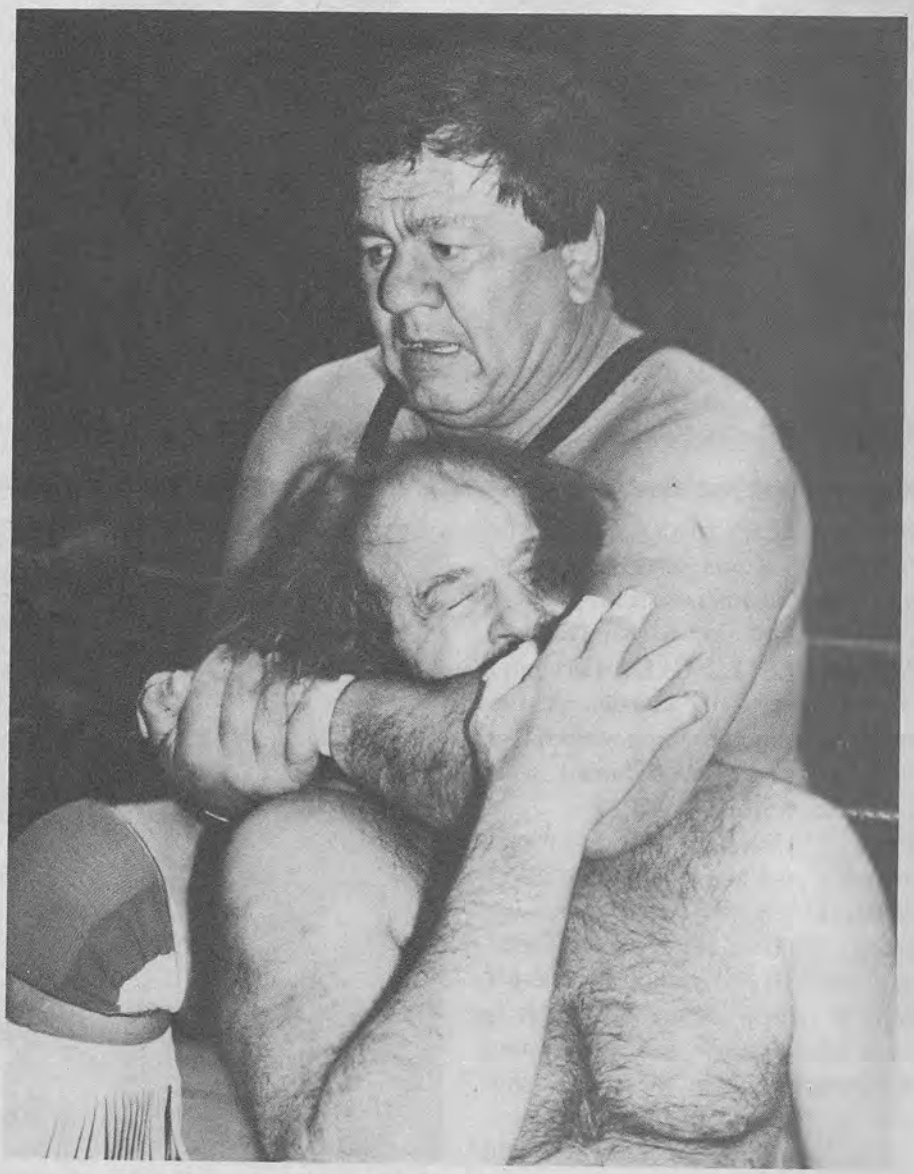
EIGHT AND A half years ago, Wahoo McDaniel was the number three challenger for the AWA World title, then held by the legendary Verne Gagne. Other top challengers for the belt at that time, according to the January 1975 issue of our sister publication *The Wrestler*, included Billy Robinson, Ray Stevens, Larry Hennig, Ivan Putski . . . and Nick Bockwinkel.

Today, Wahoo McDaniel is again the number three contender for the AWA World title. Other top challengers include Jerry Lawler, Hulk Hogan, Rick Martel, Tully Blanchard . . . but not Nick Bockwinkel.

What happened to Nick Bockwinkel? He is now the champion of the AWA. What happened to McDaniel? The ratings hardly tell the story.

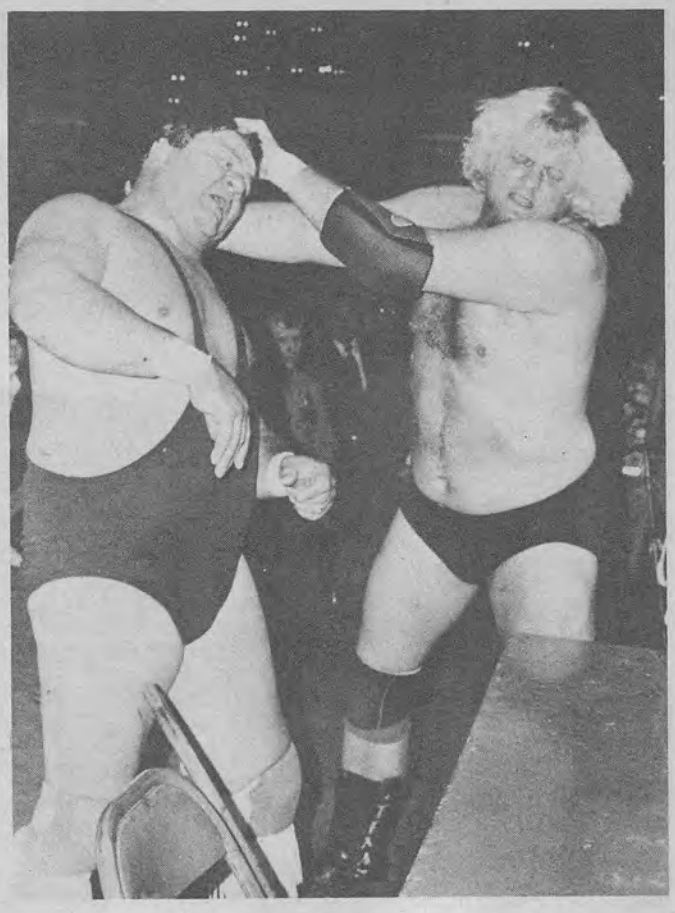
"I spent a huge chunk of my life trying to get a shot at the AWA belt," McDaniel said recently. "But you can hit your head against a wall just so many times, you know. After a while, you get a headache. The whole experience was one big headache.

"I'll tell you, some things never change. When I left I was rated the highest I had ever been, and I still couldn't get a match with Verne. Now, I'm number three again. Hogan gets a title shot, Lawler gets one, and Martel



The current top contenders for the AWA World championship pose the toughest challenge Nick Bockwinkel has encountered in the almost seven years he has worn that belt. These contenders, however, are schoolboys compared to the knowledgeable, experienced Wahoo McDaniel

Photos by Bruce Kreitzman



McDaniel dominates Jacques Goulet (opposite page and left). Wahoo takes a pounding from Bobby Duncum (above), but shows his ability to bounce back (below).

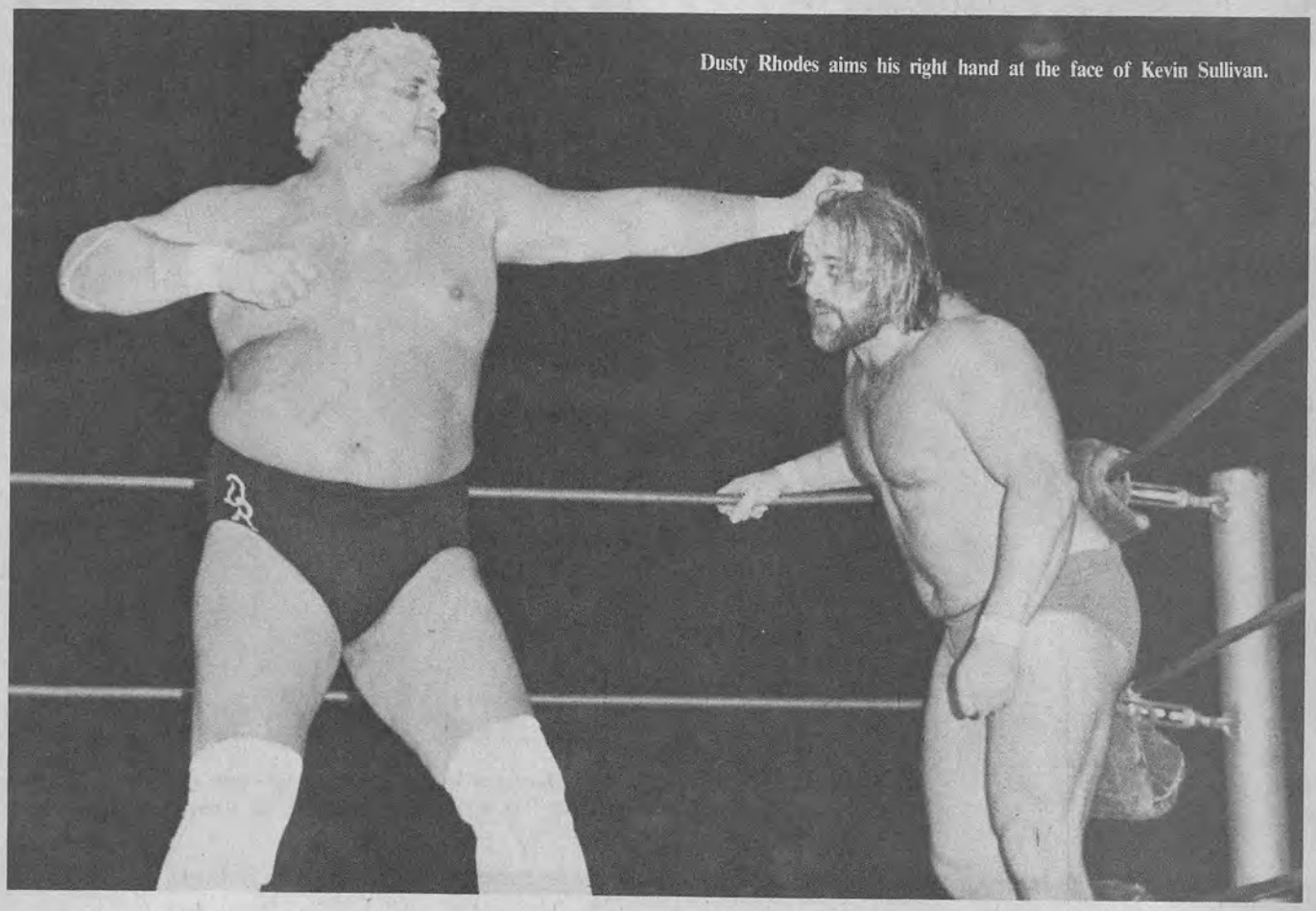
gets a chance at Bockwinkel. But I'm still waiting. What gets me is that I *know* how to beat Bockwinkel. I can't count how many times I wrestled him before he won the belt. I wrestled him alone, in tag teams, in Battle Royals. If there is a Nick Bockwinkel *expert*, it's me."

What better reason for Bockwinkel's manager, Bobby Heenan, to refuse the Chief a shot at the belt? Wahoo McDaniel is a serious threat to the AWA champion, yet Heenan claims otherwise.

"He's an old man," Heenan said. "What is he thinking of? Does he honestly think he could keep up with Nicky in the ring? Sure he has experience. Experience at being a loser. He doesn't know Nicky any better than the other chumps we're forced to wrestle. He doesn't know Nick Bockwinkel, the AWA World champion. Nick's unpredictable. He can wrestle in any style. How do you think he's kept the belt? By confusing and frustrating his

(Continued on page 64)

Dusty Rhodes vs. Kevin Sullivan



Dusty Rhodes aims his right hand at the face of Kevin Sullivan.

DUSTY RHODES BENDS his knees slightly, opens his palms to the sky, and looks about him with an expression of pure innocence. The fans surrounding this Florida wrestling ring scream and squeal in admiration of the man who is known worldwide as the "American Dream."

In Florida, Dusty Rhodes is king. The mere appearance of him at ringside, even if he is not wrestling, is enough to elicit shouts of joy from thousands of wrestling fans.

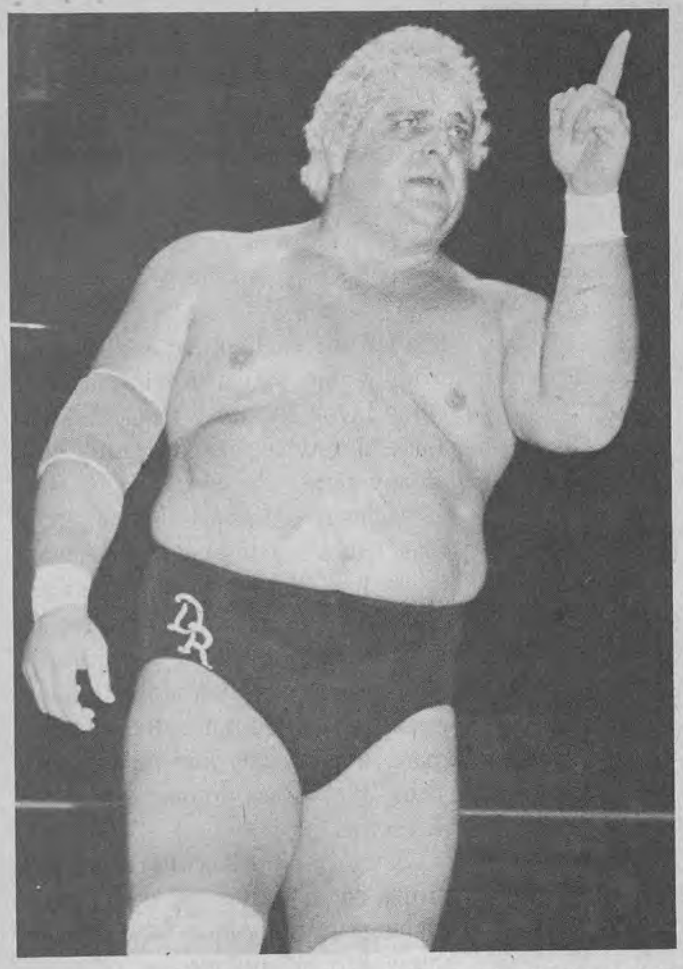
When Dusty *does* wrestle, his matches take on epic proportions. In the eyes of most Florida fans, Dusty is *the* wrestler to follow. Should one of his matches end in defeat by pinfall or injury, it would be a devastating blow to Dusty's fans everywhere (as when he recently lost a Loser Leave State match to Kevin Sullivan). As a result, every match that the American Dream participates in brings immense amounts of pressure to bear on Dusty himself.

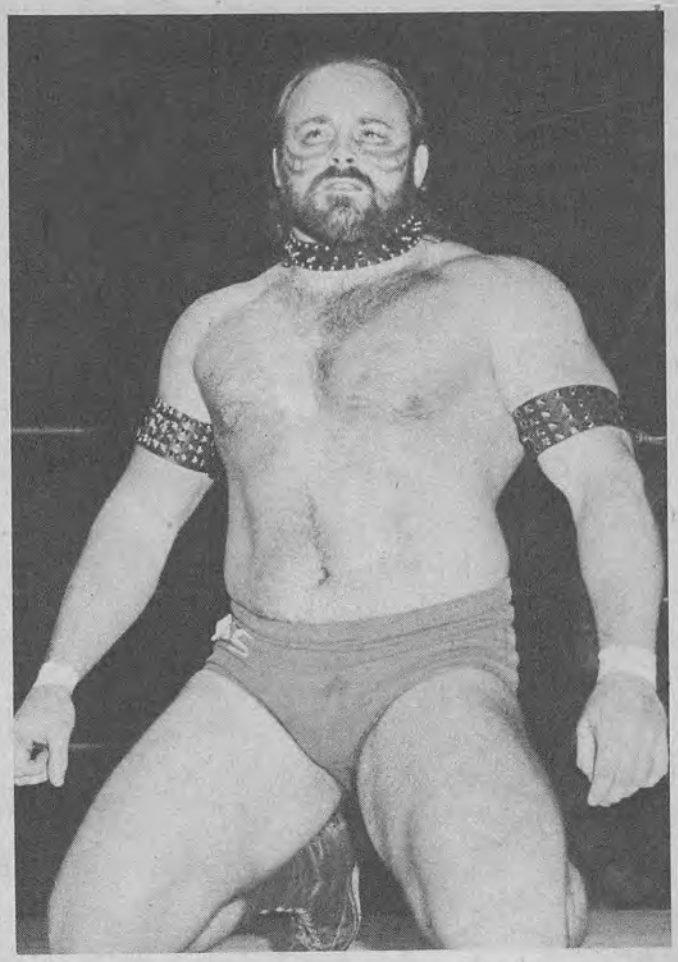
When Dusty wrestles self-avowed Satanist Kevin Sullivan, the pressure is all the more intense. This pressure comes from two directions.

First, there is the sense of revenge that Dusty feels. Having been forced to leave Florida for two months because of his loss to Kevin Sullivan, Dusty is out to prove that the loss was merely a fluke, a whim of fate. That is the

CAN THE DREAM DESTROY THE PRINCE OF WITHOUT DESTROYING KE

Photos by Bill Otten





Rhodes (above left) would like to bring the Prince of Darkness to his knees (above right), without destroying the man.

Florida is Dusty Rhodes' home. He has devoted his life to Florida wrestling and to the fans who support him in his battles throughout the Sunshine State. But a scourge is loose in Florida, the scourge of Kevin Sullivan and his Satanism. Will the American Dream be able to save Kevin Sullivan from his own evil beliefs?

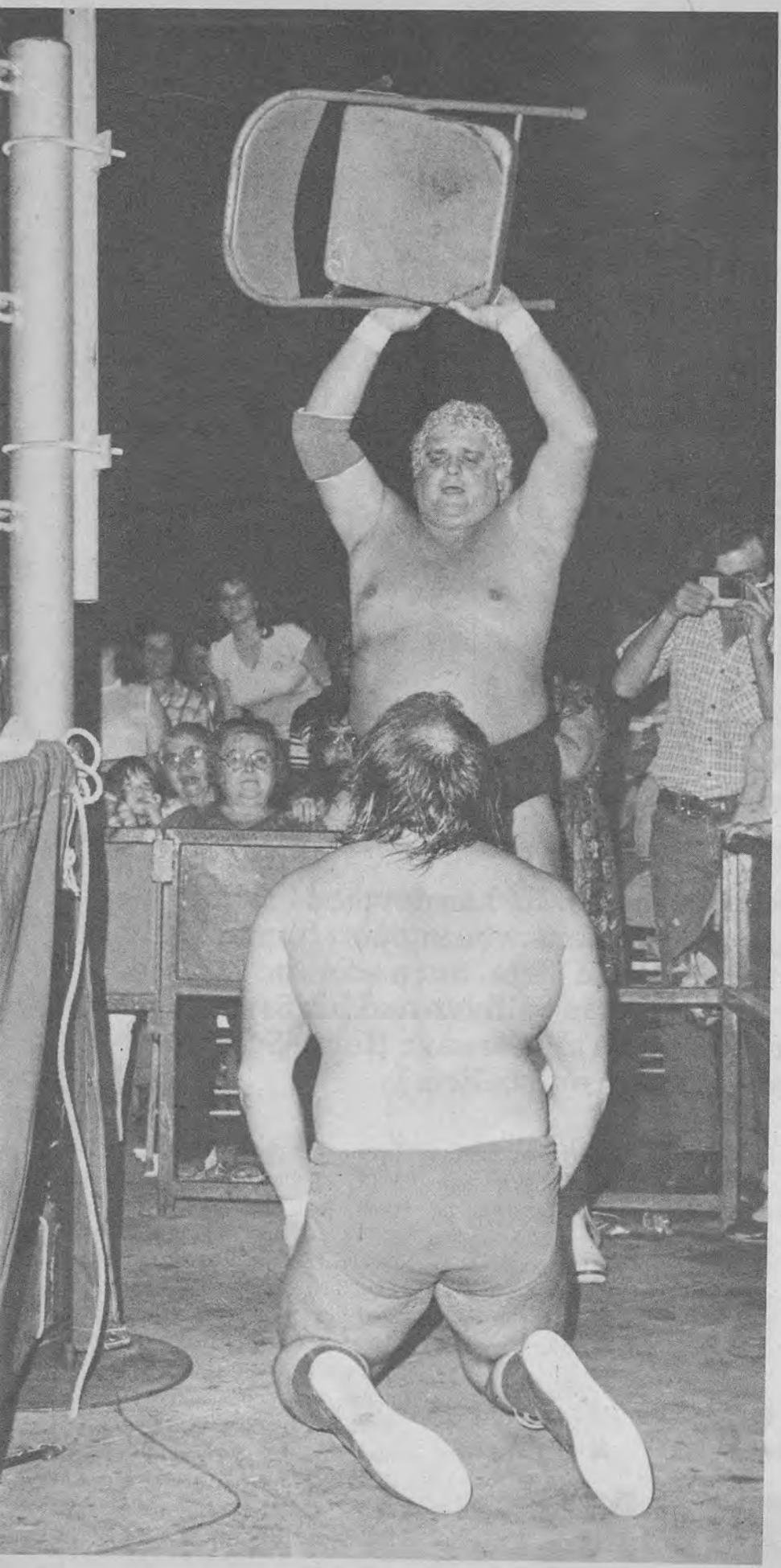
physical side of the American Dream, the man who wants to score a humiliating pinfall victory over his opponent.

Second, there is the suspicion that Sullivan may have lost all control over himself as a result of his beliefs in Satanism. This suspicion is intensified by the fact that Sullivan irrationally paints himself with strange makeup, even going so far as to shave a demonic "X" in the hair on his chest. Dusty believes he may be able to rescue Kevin from these dangerous beliefs. This is the intellectual side of the American Dream, the man who wants to prevent another man from self-destruction.

"It's a tough tightrope to walk, daddy!" Rhodes told *Pro Wrestling Illustrated.* "Kevin Sullivan humiliated the Dream, he ran me out of the state for 60 days, and for that he's got to pay the price, he's got to make restitution, daddy!

"But Kevin Sullivan is two people nowadays, he's Sullivan the wrestler and he's Sullivan the Satan-worshiper, and I believe deep down that these two people are as far

DARKNESS . . .
EVIN SULLIVAN?



Dusty doesn't hate Kevin Sullivan; he hates what Sullivan has become. Dusty feels there is still a slim chance that Kevin can be brought to his senses, and he is trying to achieve that in the best way he knows: by beating the devil out of him. Dusty slams Sullivan over the head with a chair (left).

apart from each other as Texas is from Maine. What Kevin has become involved in is a tragic detour, something which could destroy him at any time.

"Sullivan deserves better than that," Rhodes continued, "because I know that there is a part of Kevin that is good. I know, because of what he used to be. At one time he was a muscular, admirable young man. He worked out in the gym for many hours a day and built a physique that was nothing short of awesome.

"Since he has become involved in this devil-worship, he hasn't been training, his physique has deteriorated, and his attitude has changed drastically. I'm telling you, daddy, it's a dangerous bull that Sullivan is riding, and someone has to try to make him understand where he is and what he's doing to himself. Someone's got to beat some sense into that boy, and I'm going to try to do it."

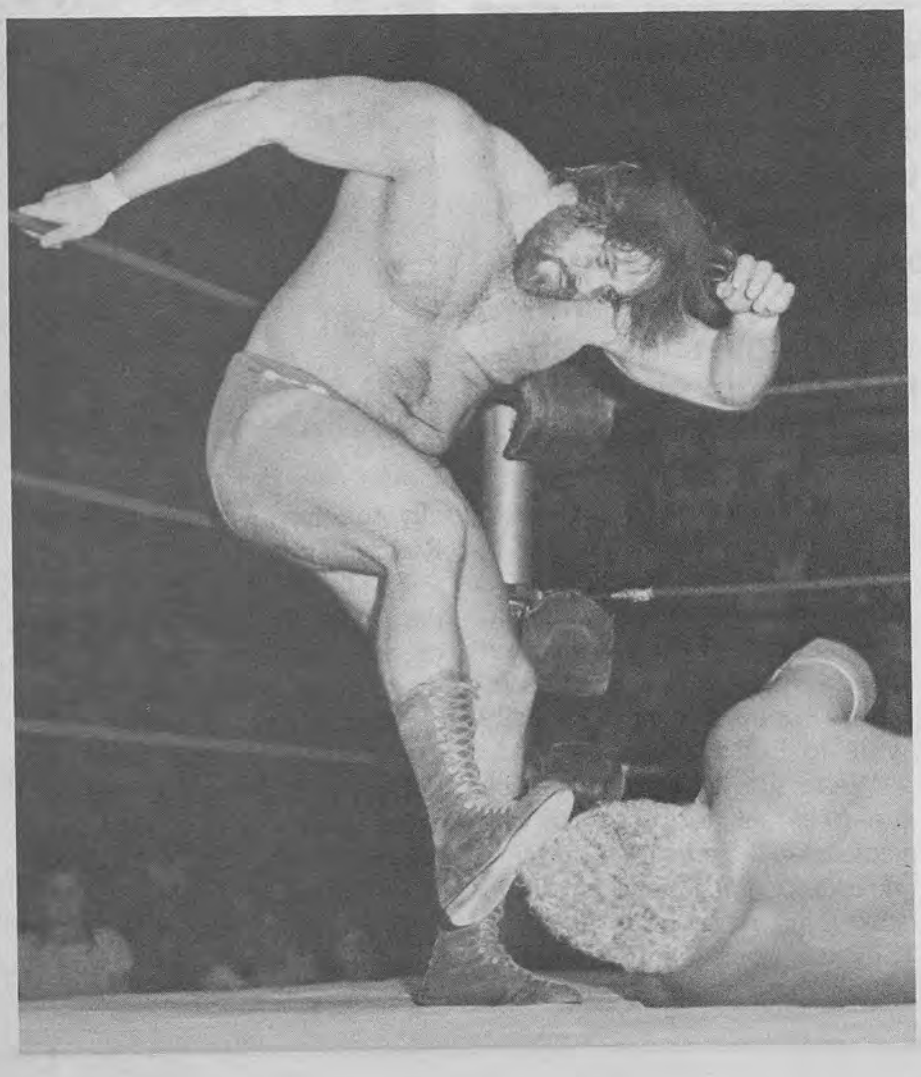
Rhodes has taken on a monumental task. At this point in his life, Sullivan doesn't appear ready to listen to anyone, much less Dusty Rhodes. There is blind hatred involved here, and Sullivan's blindness is compounded by his irrational beliefs.

After all, if you listen to Sullivan, it was Dusty Rhodes who drove him to his beliefs in Satan.

"The future is a place where Kevin Sullivan reigns supreme," Sullivan was recently quoted as saying. "The future is a place where the American Dream does not exist, where Dusty Rhodes has been eliminated."

With an attitude like that, Kevin Sullivan will not listen to anything

Rhodes turns Sullivan's head with an elbow to the side of the face (above). Inspired by his desire to revive the old Sullivan, Rhodes will rebound from Kevin's brutal offensive (below).



Dusty Rhodes has to say.

Perhaps the only way to get through to Sullivan initially is via the wrestling ring, and Rhodes has already taken the first steps in that direction.

Rhodes and Sullivan have recently wrestled in a series of "Diablo Canyon Death Matches," wherein the leather glove of The Midnight Rider, with a silver dollar attached to the back of it, was placed on a pole in the ring. The first man to get to the glove is legally allowed to use the weapon on his opponent.

"My good friend The Midnight Rider originated this match," Dusty explained, "and Kevin Sullivan, because of his irrational hatred for me, consented to participate. What Kevin Sullivan doesn't understand, daddies, is that the Diablo Canyon Death Match is simply the first step in the rehabilitation of Kevin Sullivan and the saving of Florida from his deadly beliefs."

As Dusty himself said, he is walking a thin tightrope. Should he fall to one side, he will have gone too far in his campaign against Sullivan and destroyed the man behind the beliefs. Should he fall to the other side, he will have caused his own destruction at the hands of the man who calls himself the "Prince of Darkness."

But if Dusty is able to maintain his balance in this precarious situation, he might very well be able to cleanse the soul of Kevin Sullivan, purge him of these dangerous beliefs, and restore normality to the state of Florida.

The next few months will be important for Florida wrestling. Dusty Rhodes will be continuing his mission against Kevin Sullivan. If Rhodes fails to rehabilitate Sullivan, fails to eradicate the dangerous tenets of devil worship from the face of professional wrestling, what hope can anyone else have of saving Kevin Sullivan from himself . . . and professional wrestling from Kevin Sullivan. □

Special Fan Contest

WIN A PHONE CALL FROM RODDY PIPER!

Every wrestling fan dreams of the opportunity to be able to speak one on one with a professional wrestler. When that wrestler happens to be the controversial and cunning Roddy Piper, every fan has strong opinions. Now, in a special *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* contest, you can win the chance to debate wrestling issues with the rowdy Scotsman himself

"DEAR *PWI:* I can't believe what Roddy Piper has done to Charlie Cook in Florida with his piledriver. I used to be a fan of his, but now, after seeing him nearly cripple Cook, I don't think Piper is deserving of any respect at all. I only wish I could tell him so myself."

"Dear *Pro Wrestling Illustrated:* The enclosed letter is for Roddy Piper. Please make sure he receives it, because it tells him how I feel about a lot of the things he's been doing in wrestling lately. I'm one of his biggest fans. Thank you."

We receive letters similar to those every day. We also receive requests for addresses where people can personally write to Roddy Piper.

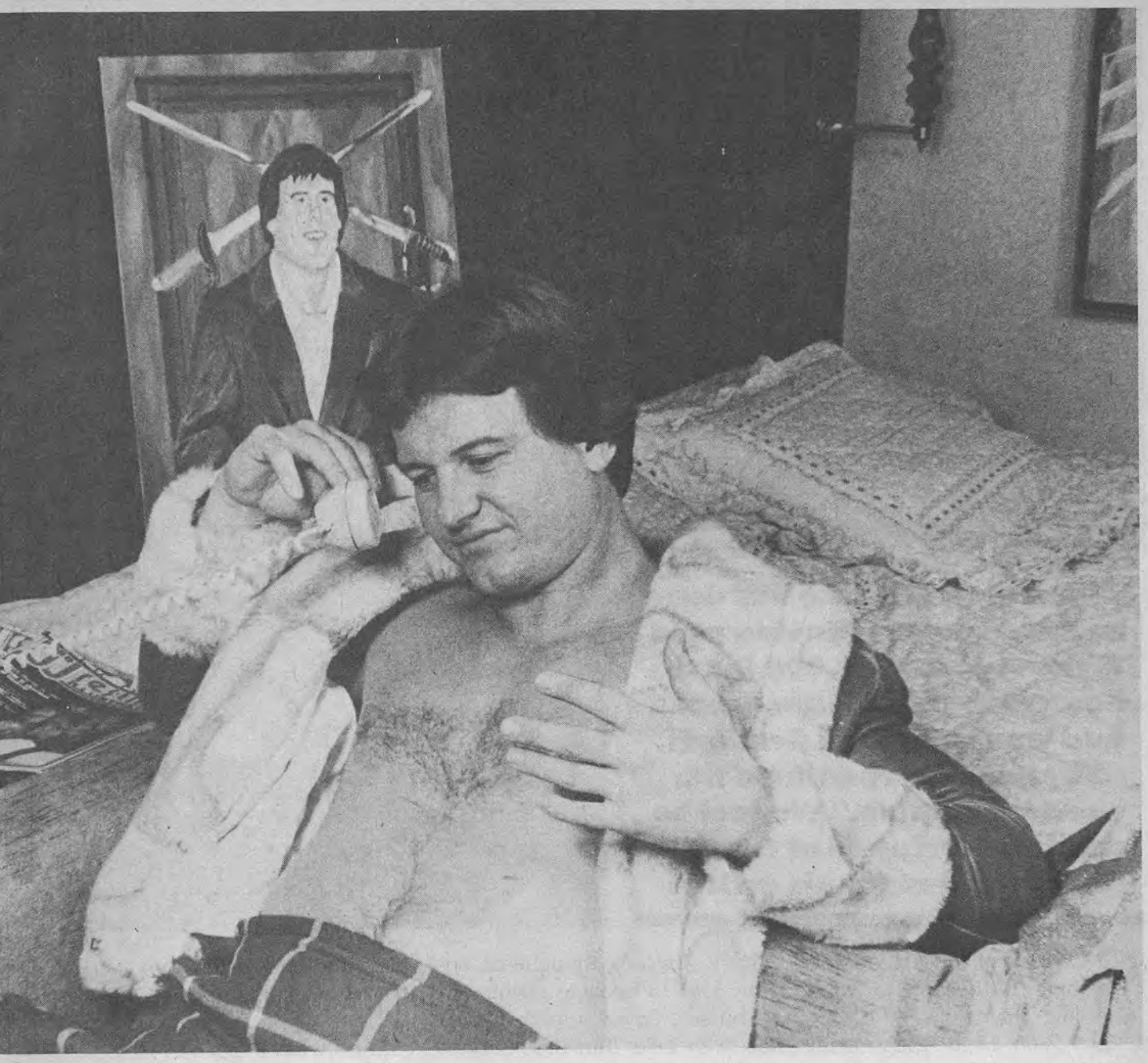
We're not allowed to release the personal addresses of any professional wrestler, but *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* is doing something even better.

We're conducting a contest in which the winner will actually receive a phone call from Roddy Piper himself!

You'll be able to talk wrestling with the man who is one of the most controversial figures in the entire sport.

All you have to do is fill in the coupon on this page, accompanied by your composition in 50 words or less, "It is important that I talk to Roddy Piper because . . ."

The editors will chose what they feel is the best composition and the winner will re-



ceive a phone call from Roddy.

A transcript of the conversation, in addition to the winning composition, will be published in the November 1983 issue of *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* on sale August 23.

Sharpen your pencils, sharpen your wits, and get to it. Deadline for entries is June 15, so hurry!

Some lucky fan will win a call from Roddy Piper . . . and it could be you! Send in your composition today! □

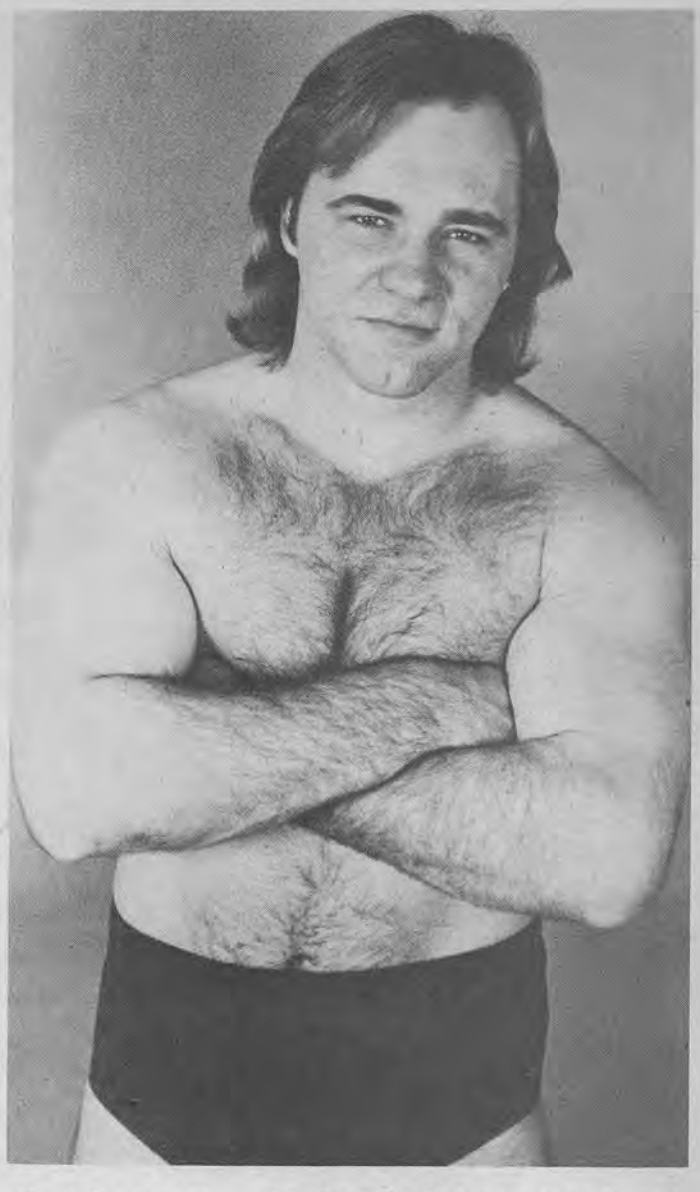
Remember to include your composition in 50 words or less: "It is important that I talk to Roddy Piper because . . ."

Send to: PIPER CALL
Box 48
Rockville Centre, NY 11571

Name.....**Age** .....
Address.....
City.....**State**.....**Zip**.....
Telephone.....

All entries must be postmarked no later than June 15, 1983.

WHY LARRY ZBYSZKO MUST BE STRIPPED OF THE GEORGIA NATIONAL TITLE



What Larry Zbyszko has done is reprehensible. Having paid Killer Brooks $25,000 for the Georgia National title Brooks had won from Paul Orndorff, Zbyszko has redefined the word "champion." We feel he should be stripped of the title and punished for his actions

SOME PEOPLE WILL do anything to become a wrestling champion.

Kerry Von Erich spent many lonely years in the gym training, building his muscles, increasing his power. He recently realized his dream when he defeated Harley Race for the Missouri belt.

Magnificent Muraco failed to defeat Pedro Morales several times for the WWF Intercontinental belt. But determination on the part of Muraco, the willingness to wrestle the champion in match after grueling match, finally wore down Morales and brought him the title.

Larry Zbyszko isn't interested in pumping iron, and he doesn't want to have to wrestle for a championship.

Larry Zbyszko thought of another way to become champion.

You see, Zbyszko made a cash deal with Killer Tim Brooks prior to the March 20, 1983, wrestling card in the Omni in Atlanta.

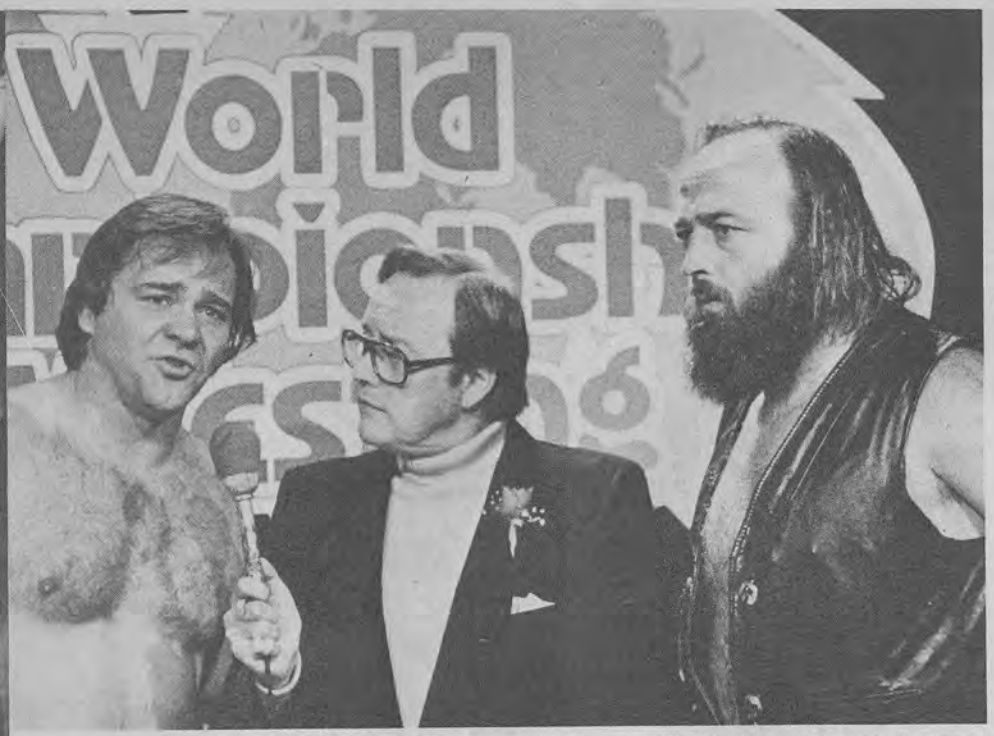
"That's right, a straight business deal," Zbyszko told *Pro Wrestling Illustrated.* "Brooks doesn't really care that much about the Georgia National heavyweight belt, and I don't really care that much about money. I scouted Brooks, I knew he had what it takes to defeat Paul Orndorff.

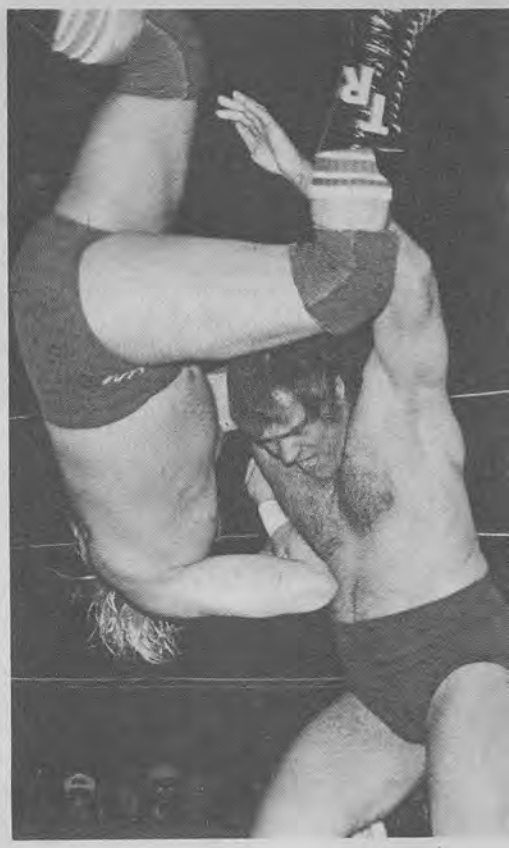
"My business deal was this: If Brooks defeated Orndorff for the Georgia title, I would pay him $25,000 and he would give me the belt. An aboveboard business transaction, that's all. Very simple. Brooks defeated Orndorff, I paid Brooks, and he gave me the belt.

"And what happens?" Zbyszko asked. "Everyone starts going crazy on me, telling me I shouldn't have made this deal, telling me I'm not allowed to conduct business. Well let me tell these fans something: I do business how I want, when I want, and the way I want. I couldn't care less about what any stupid fans say."

The furor surrounding Zbyszko's business deal is well founded. We feel it is important that *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* take a strong editorial stand on this issue. We feel, without hesitation, that Zbyszko should be stripped of the Georgia National title

Photos by Emmy Yates





Larry Zbyszko announces via Gordon Solie's *World Championship Wrestling* microphone his agreement with Killer Brooks to purchase the Georgia National title should Brooks be able to dethrone Paul Orndorff (above). Larry prevents an Orndorff victory by placing Brooks' foot on the ropes (below). Zbyszko flips Rich to the mat but was the eventual loser (right).

immediately.

We have several reasons for our position.

• *Zbyszko is not champion.* Quite simply, Killer Brooks is the champion. Brooks defeated Orndorff, and unless he wants to forfeit the title, Brooks should be recognized as the Georgia National champion, despite any element of greed on the part of Zbyszko.

• *Zbyszko did not wrestle for the belt.* A wrestling champion can only call himself champion when he has beaten his foe within the confines of the squared circle. Zbyszko did not do so. Indeed, on the night he purchased the title from Brooks, Zbyszko *lost* his match to Tommy Rich. It is a severe contradiction in terms to have a "champion" who lost his match in the ring that night against a man who wasn't even champion!

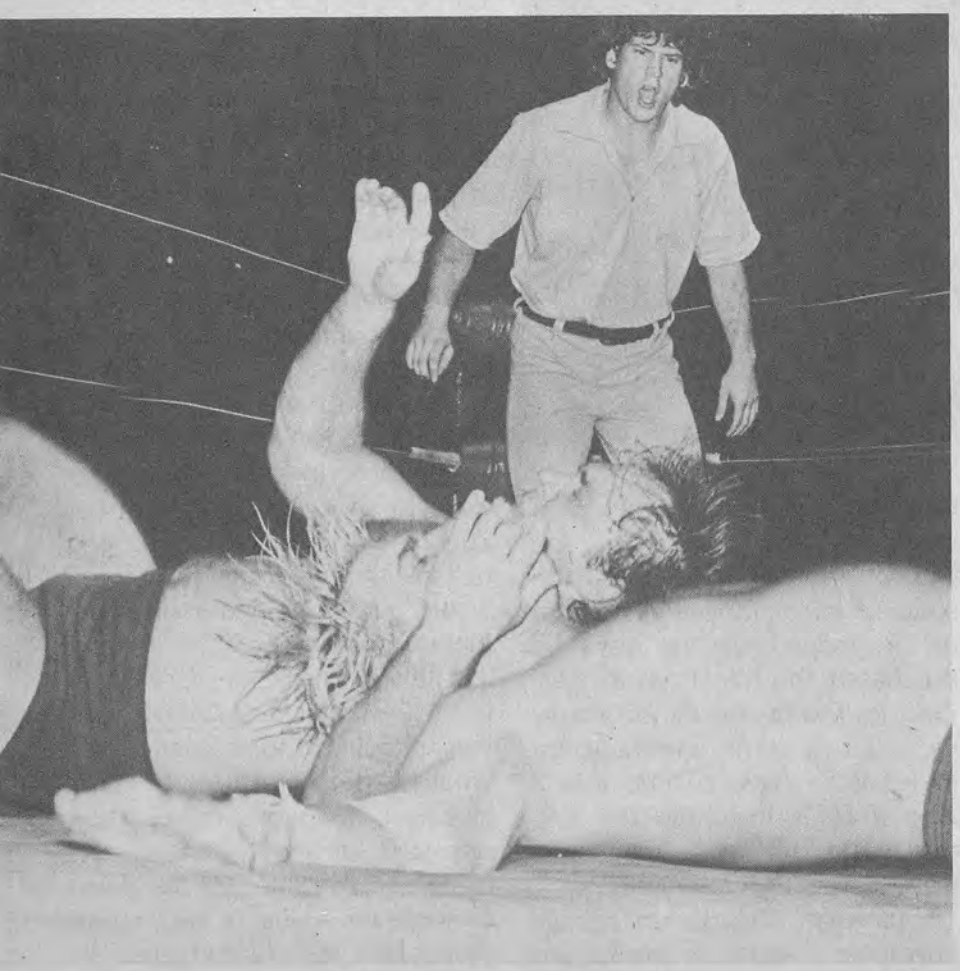
• *Allowing Zbyszko to remain champion sets a dangerous precedent.* Many wrestlers are quite wealthy, and it is generally believed that every man has his price. What if someone like Sheik Adnan Al-Kaissie, one of the richest men in professional wrestling, decided he wanted to buy the AWA title from Nick Bockwinkel at whatever price Bockwinkel set? Titles would be bought and sold like stocks, with no necessity whatsoever for defeating one's opponent through physical abilities and skills.

This is why we feel the NWA must immediately strip Zbyszko of the belt. Indeed, late rumors close to press time indicate that Zbyszko may indeed be stripped of the title and a new champion would be determined in an elimination tournament.

If this is in fact the decision of NWA President Bob Geigel, who was unavailable for comment, we wholeheartedly support him. However, we would take action one step further.

Zbyszko ought to be fined $25,000—the value of his "championship." As further punish-

Zbyszko tried, but he was unable to defeat Rich. He was not wrestling for position in the ratings, however. What he wanted he would pay for with cold cash, not sweat and blood.



ment, he should be barred from participating in any tournament for the Georgia National title. Zbyszko should serve as an example to every profesional wrestler, ensuring that nobody ever again attempts such a foolish and irresponsible act.

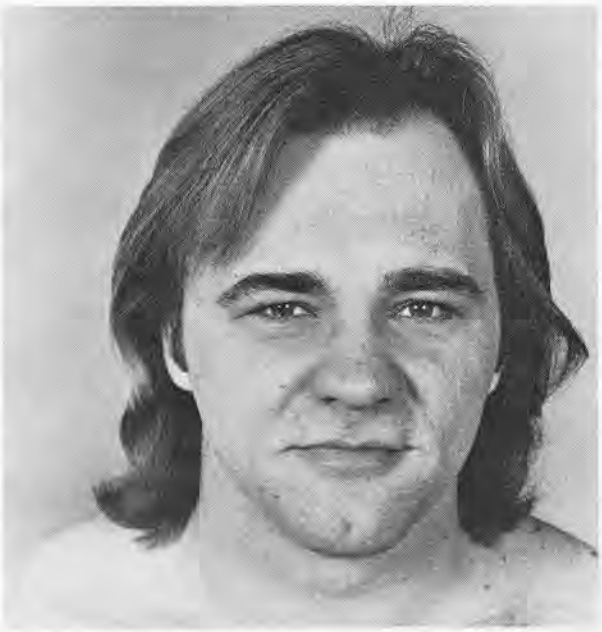
If Zbyszko is able to earn a title match with the new champion by working his was up the ratings in the conventional manner, then by all means he should be given the opportunity to wrestle for the title. If he is able to defeat the newly crowned champion, then logically he should be presented with the title. If Zbyszko feels he is championship material, let him defeat a champion for the title.

Zbyszko's deal with Killer Brooks should be viewed by every wrestling fan as one of the most shameful and unethical events in the history of professional wrestling. *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* deplores Zbyszko's actions, and we hope that Bob Geigel and the NWA take immediate action against him. □

PRO Wrestling ILLUSTRATED
T.V. SPORTS

CLOSE-UP

LARRY ZBYSZKO



LARRY ZBYSZKO MAY be the most controversial figure in professional wrestling today . . . Grew up in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, two miles away from his childhood idol, the "Living Legend," Bruno Sammartino . . . While in high school would ride his bicycle to Bruno's house and ask him for advice on becoming a pro wrestler . . . Sammartino offered his help, but only after Larry promised to stay in school . . . Bruno began to work out with Zbyszko, seeing a potential star in need of development . . . Attended Penn State University . . . Graduated with degrees in law enforcement and psychology . . . First pro bout, in Pittsburgh, ended after 18 seconds when he beat Frank Durso with a backbreaker . . . Later moved on to Vancouver, British Columbia, where he feuded with the then-hated Bugsy McGraw . . . Made his New York debut in Madison Square Garden in 1973 . . . Wrestled in WWF semi-main event single and tag team matches for a year . . . Left to tour the Carolinas, Florida, and Georgia territories . . . Engaged in a bloody feud with Abdullah the Butcher in Georgia . . . Moved on to Los Angeles, winning the "Beat The Champ" TV title . . . Returned to the WWF after touring Japan . . . Received several shots at WWF heavyweight champion Superstar Graham, but failed to capture the title . . . Teamed with Tony Garea to defeat The Lumberjacks for the WWF tag team title . . . Lost belts to John and Jerry Valiant . . . Returned to Japan, and while on tour grew resentful of the "Bruno's protege" label . . . Returned to WWF and cockily asked for a match against Bruno . . . Shocked, Sammartino agreed to meet Zbyszko in a scientific TV match . . . Bruno accidentally flipped Zbyszko out of the ring and spread the ropes to allow him to reenter . . . An enraged Zbyszko grabbed a chair from ringside and slammed it down on the Living Legend's head . . . Began billing himself as the "New Living Legend" . . . This confrontation developed into one of the most intense feuds in the annals of pro wrestling . . . The Bruno-Zbyszko Cage Match at New York's Shea Stadium drew $565,000 in gate receipts, a North American record . . . Mysteriously dropped out of sight . . . Claims he was studying the martial arts and psychology . . . Began feuding with Bruno Sammartino Jr., his childhood friend, after claiming to have placed Bruno Sr. in retirement . . . Cut a record entitled "Boo On Me" . . . Moved into Georgia area . . . Worked out a deal with Killer Brooks to purchase the Georgia National title should the challenger be able to upset champion Paul Orndorff . . . Paid $25,000 for the belt, touching off a major fan outcry and a probable NWA investigation. □

PRO Wrestling ILLUSTRATED
TV SPORTS
LARRY ZBYSZKO
The New Living Legend

PRO Wrestling ILLUSTRATED
T.V. SPORTS

CLOSE-UP

FAVORITE MANEUVER

"Someday, I will be regarded as one of the best technical wrestlers the sport has ever seen. And when, in the year 2500 or whatever, those historians discuss my incredible abilities, one of the maneuvers they will refer to is the abdominal stretch. I have acheived perfection in executing this hold."

GREATEST MATCH

"It was the greatest feeling in the world to hear those tens of thousands of fans in Shea Stadium gasp in horror as their 'Legend' bled before their eyes. Even if I wasn't declared the winner, I know that Cage Match was the beginning of the end for Bruno. I drove him out of wrestling."

MOST HATED OPPONENT

"Do you even have to ask? No matter who I meet in the future, Bruno Sammartino will always be not only the wrestler, but the man I hate the most in the world. His family and his entire ancestry should be swallowed up by Mount Vesuvius. He is a slimy individual."

TOUGHEST OPPONENT

"Ken Patera is a man who not only possesses a great deal of strength, but knows what to do with it. There are a lot of Tony Atlases and Butch Reeds out there who are strong, but they have zero technique. Patera can do more than bodyslam his opponent. Wrestling him was definitely a learning experience."

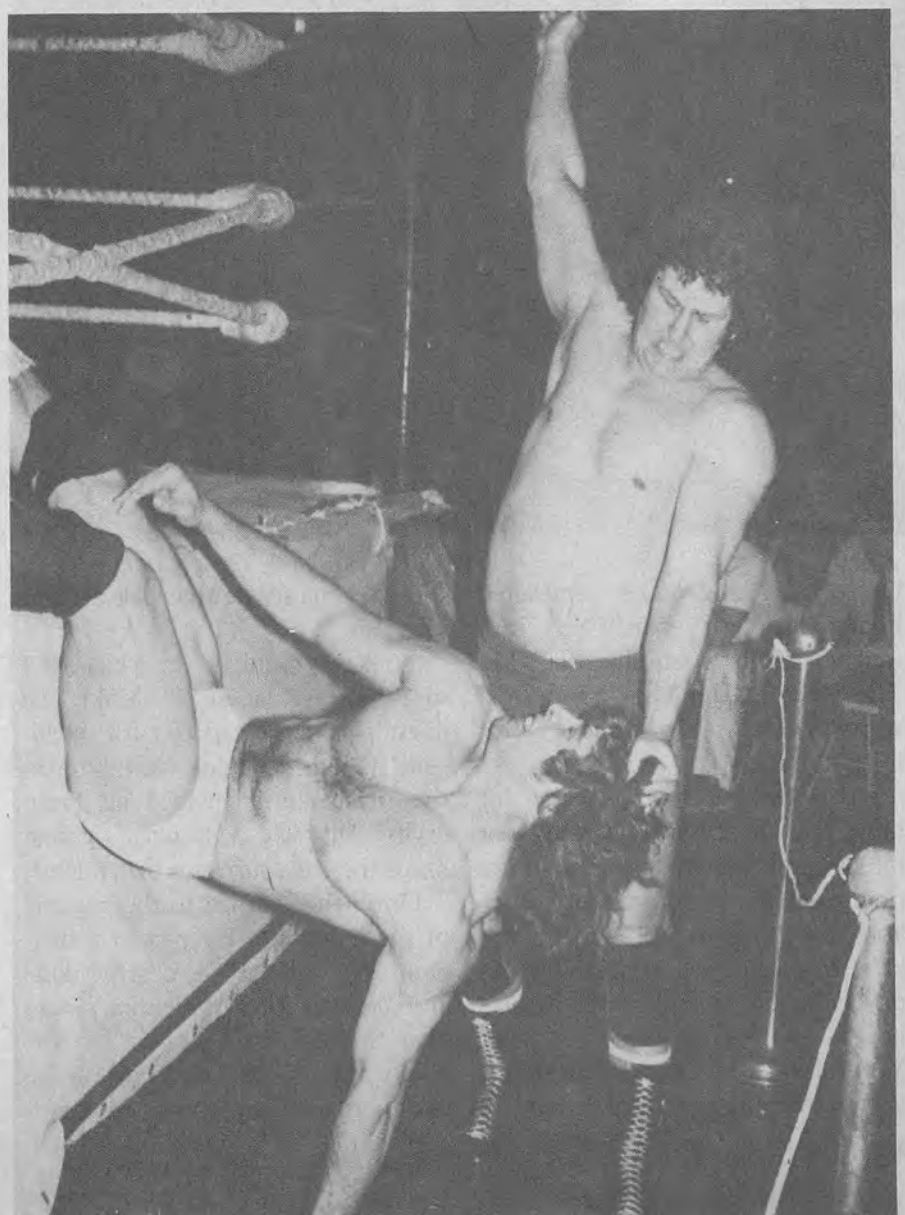
COWBOY BOB ORTON: "KERRY VON ERICH ISN'T TOUGH ENOUGH TO SURVIVE THE '80s!"

If a man is going to make accusations, he'd better have some facts to back them up. Cowboy Bob Orton recently directed some very damaging accusations at Missouri champion Kerry Von Erich. But they were strictly one man's opinion. The only place Orton was going to back up those accusations was in the squared circle

SITTING IN HIS dressing room in Kansas City, Cowboy Bob Orton thumbed through the pages of the July issue of *Pro Wrestling Illustrated*. Like most wrestlers, Orton depends on the magazine to keep him up to date with what is going on in professional wrestling arenas across the country.

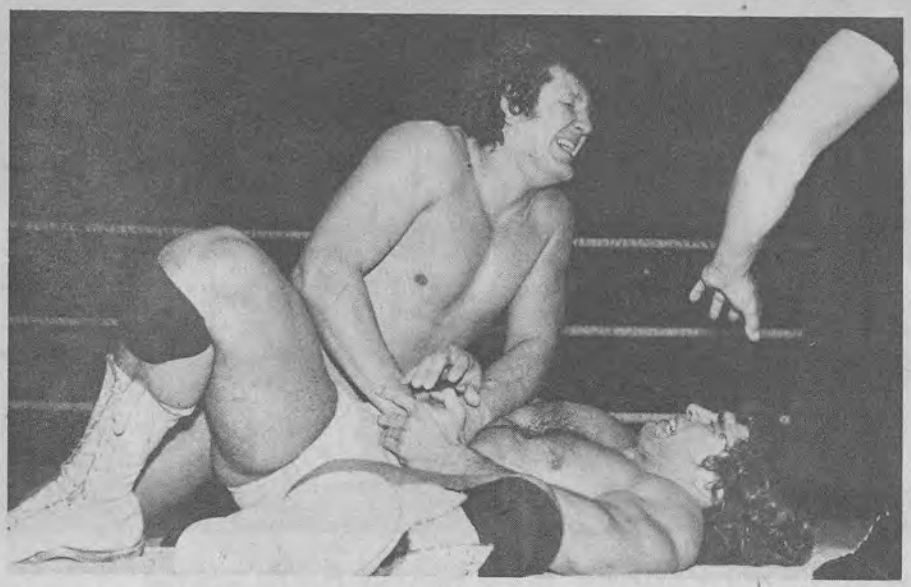
His scanning suddenly came to a stop. He stopped flipping the pages, and his manner was no longer casual. Orton took on the look of a student preparing for a major exam. He withdrew from the friendly banter being exchanged in the dressing room. These pages seemed to have had a powerful grasp on Orton.

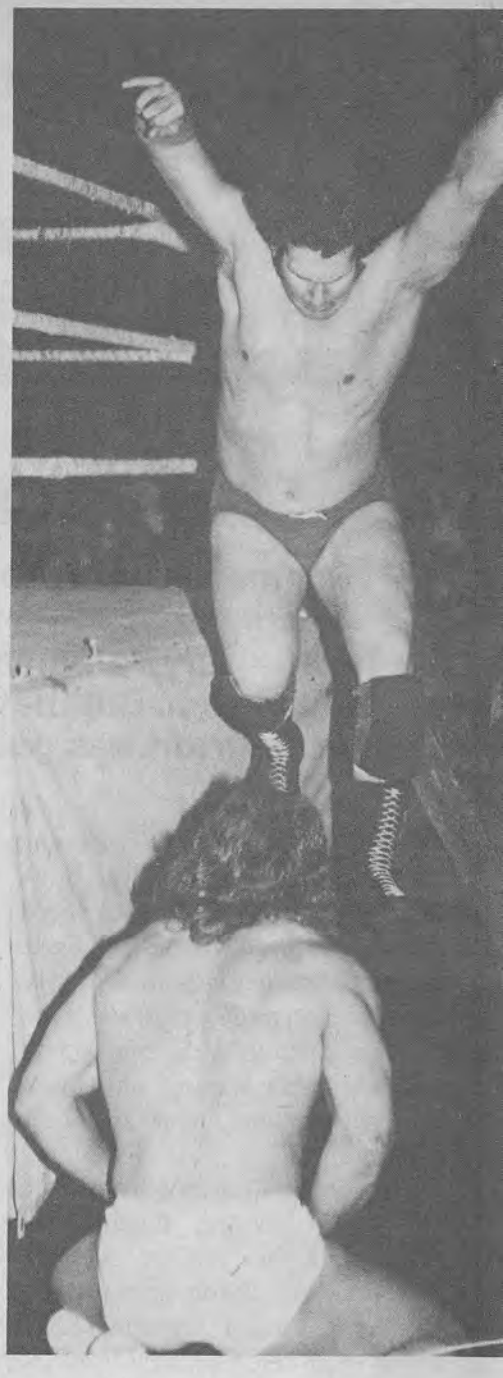
He flipped back to the first page of the story that caught his attention with such an intensity and read the headline aloud. "'Kerry Von Erich vs. Greg Valentine: The First Battle In The War Of The '80s.' It doesn't look like too much of a



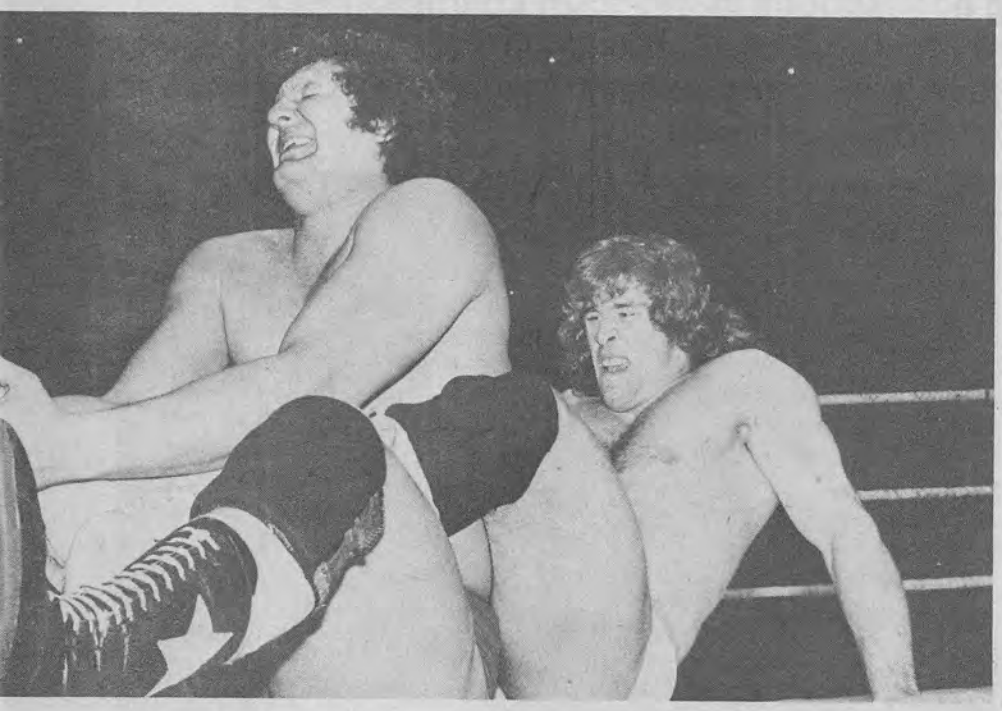
Cowboy Bob Orton drags Kerry Von Erich out of the ring by his hair and clubs him with his right arm.

Photos by Scott Romer





Orton, in Von Erich fashion, applies a painful stomach claw (above). Kerry wraps his muscular legs around the Cowboy's torso (below). Orton launches an outside-the-ring attack from the steps (right).



battle to me," he snickered hoarsely. "Kerry Von Erich isn't tough enough to survive the '80s! These pictures don't say a thousand words. They say one word: incompetence!

"If Valentine was a battle for him, little Kerry is not ready for me. I can't wait to get him in the ring. Greg's a good wrestler, probably better than Von Erich, but he's too happy just cashing his paycheck. He doesn't want it, he's not as hungry. I want that title. You can take the money and give it to starving orphans. All I want is for everyone to see that belt around my waist.

"If Kerry thinks . . . what did I say? Kerry doesn't think; he doesn't have the capacity for intelligent thought. I think that impressive musculature invaded his brain cavity. That is exactly what's gonna make the Missouri title belt mine."

Orton then turned to the page 68 of the magazine. He picked a ballpoint pen up off a nearby table and crossed both Valentine's and Von Erich's names out of the NWA ratings. He chuckled as he wrote his own name in as the number one contender for Ric Flair's World title. "See this?" he said holding the page up. "This is what the ratings will look like after I finish off Kerry. The man simply doesn't have the mental toughness to last in the ring with me."

"I'm not about to get finished off by Orton or anyone else," Kerry said from the Von Erich family gym, built off of father Fritz's home in Texas. "Valentine was a test, sure, but he was my first test. I know a bit more about defending a title now that I've done it. You have to fight to keep a title

Orton boldly stated that Kerry Von Erich does not have the mental or physical toughness to make it through the '80s. But who has whom trapped in a head claw (above)? And who, despite taking a tremendous amount of punishment, is holding the Missouri State title belt (bottom)?

harder than you have to fight to get one.

"You have to realize where Orton's coming from. He knows what he's doing. He tells a few choice people—other wrestlers, the press—what he's gonna do to me, and that's supposed to get me riled up enough to sign to wrestle him. I

probably would have wrestled him, anyway. He's a worthy challenger for the belt. But he should just know that I know what he's doing. I'm not stupid.

"One thing I won't let Orton do is intimidate me. Not tough enough for the '80s? We'll find out if I am. I have no doubts. Valentine tried to intimidate me and it didn't work. I have to remember that most of my challengers are going to be older, maybe a bit wiser, and they're going to have, for the most part, more experience. What's important, though, is that I have the title. They have to come to me to get it. This is no fluke. I'm not the Missouri State champion because of some mistake."

Kerry then looked toward one of the walls of the gym. Mounted there was a photo taken of him right after he had won the Missouri belt from Harley Race. "No. It certainly was no mistake."

Von Erich's remarks were a foreteller of his match with Orton. Orton indeed used every weapon available to him. He tried to intimidate the younger champion verbally. He broke open an arsenal of illegal maneuvers that he used with savage cruelty, opening a gash on Von Erich's forehead.

When Orton found he wasn't winning inside the ring, he moved the bout to outside the ring ropes, where he kept his opponent off-balance hanging off the ring apron and administered a barbaric beating.

In the final moments, however, this match would come down to a battle between two submission clawholds. Evidently, Von Erich's abdominal region stood up to the punishment of Orton's stomach claw better than Orton's head did to Von Erich's grasp because the champion retained his title.

In most title matches, the challenger has everything to gain, and the champion has everything to lose. In this case, however, both men had a lot at stake. Kerry was risking his title, but Orton, having referred to the champion as a "green kid," was risking his credibility as a wrestler.

What makes professional wrestling unique is that on rare occasions the result of a match is an exact barometer of the worthiness of the competing individuals. This was one of those occasions. □

VOLUME IV, No. 8 MAY 1983

WRESTLING ENQUIRER

TULLY SAYS SPLIT WITH GINO IS PERMANENT

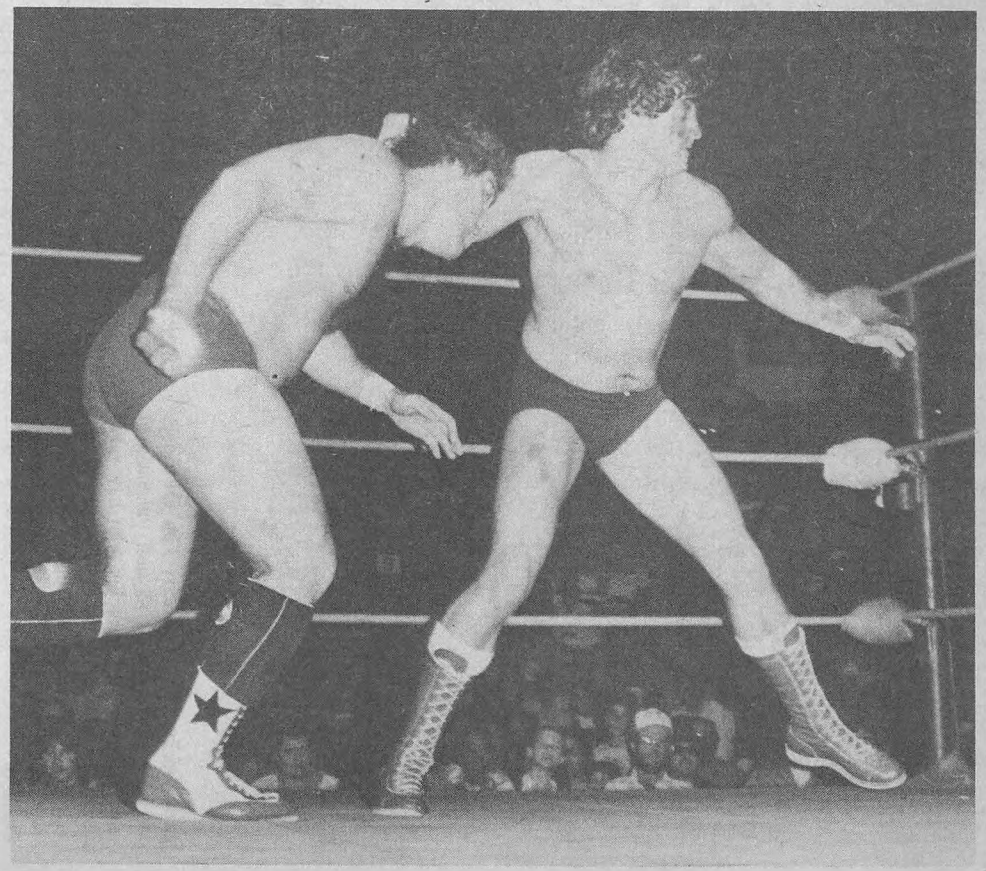
BY BILL APTER

SAN ANTONIO, TX—It all took place during a Southwest tag team title match in which Tully Blanchard and Gino Hernandez won the belts from The Masked Grapplers.

Hernandez accidentally smashed Blanchard in the head and out of the ring when the Grappler that Blanchard was holding in a full nelson managed to duck out of the way at the last second. As Blanchard tried to climb back into the ring, Hernandez sent the Grappler catapulting into the ropes, accidentally knocking Tully to the floor. Hernandez went on to pin the Grappler and win the tag belts.

But an outraged Blanchard attacked his partner with the belt. That night, the former partners squared off in a bloody battle.

"That egotistical creep will pay for what he did to me," said Blanchard. "I don't take that kind of crap from anyone, least of all that skinny runt. He'll pay, and he'll pay with his own blood."



Gino Hernandez sends Tully Blanchard through the ropes.

Wrestling II & Conway Continue Winning Ways

BY STU SAKS

NEW ORLEANS—Mid-South tag team champions, Mr. Wrestling II and Tiger Conway Jr., who defeated Ted DiBiase and Matt Borne for the belts, have been defending their title with absolute success.

In what many observers felt would be their toughest defense to date, Wrestling II and Conway turned back the challenge of Super Destroyer and Masked Superstar.

Mr. Wrestling II and Tiger Conway Jr. admire their Mid-South tag team championship belts.

"I thought that might be the end of our title reign right there," Conway confessed, "so I figured we might as well just go out there and do the best we can to defend the belts. Son of a gun, if we didn't defeat them hands down. That match has given us a lot more confidence for future title defenses."

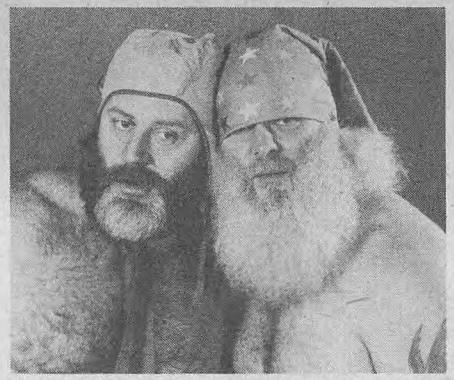
Bugsy & Valiant Make Pact; H & H, Ltd. On The Run

BY RICH COUNTIS

CHARLOTTE, NC—Bugsy McGraw and Jimmy Valiant have joined forces here to battle the notorious rulebreaking organization of H & H, Ltd.

H & H, Ltd. is composed of managers Gary Hart and Sir Oliver Humperdink, and the various wrestlers that they collectively manage.

"It wasn't too long ago that I defeated One Man Gang in a Chain Match," Valiant told the *Enquirer*, "and I did a good job on Humperdink that night, too!



Bugsy McGraw and Jimmy Valiant have put their heads together in opposition of H & H, Ltd.

But now that Hart is in the area, the job is getting too big to handle alone. I'm glad that Bugsy is going to help me. He's a good man, an old friend from the streets of New York, and together we'll do our best to rid the area of H & H, Ltd."

Garvin Wins World Class Title

BY CRAIG PETERS

DALLAS—"Gorgeous" Jim Garvin has defeated David Von Erich for the World Class heavyweight championship.

With valet Sunshine at his side, Garvin now holds the title that he claims makes him king of Texas wrestling.

"That little wimp Von Erich was a piece of cake," Garvin said, "I don't even think I broke a sweat in the match! He's got so much on his mind lately with The Freebirds and his brothers he didn't even bother to train for his title defense

Valet Sunshine spreads the ropes for "Gorgeous" Jim Garvin.

against me. Too bad for him, second chances don't come around in this sport.

"All I have to say is that finally there is a champion who lives up to the title," Garvin said. "That title, of course, is 'World Class' heavyweight champion. There isn't another champion in the world with more class than myself!"

AROUND THE GLOBE

TAMPA, FL

Former wrestler Beautiful Bobby Harmon, now a manager, may have altered the balance of power in the Sunshine State by bringing in a 6'7", 455-pound wrestler by the name of Big Daddy. Harmon feels Daddy is the man to stop the rulebreaking actions of James J. Dillon's Royal Family. "If anyone is capable of doing the job, it's Big Daddy," Bobby said. "Believe me, he is one of a kind."

ST. LOUIS, MO

Missouri State champion Kerry Von Erich has begun receiving special training from former NWA World champion Pat O'Connor, the *Wrestling Enquirer* has learned. Kerry, who received most of his training from his father, Fritz, could do nothing but benefit from the experience of the great former champion.

PITTSBURGH, PA

Former two-time WWF champion Bruno Sammartino says he is "shocked and amazed" by Larry Zbyszko's purchase of the Georgia National title. "The man has no respect for anything," said Bruno, who guided Zbyszko through his early years as a professional. "If he can't respect the worth of a championship belt, he doesn't deserve to be a wrestler."

Ric Flair vs. Rick Steamboat:
FRIENDLY RIVALRY OR BITTER FEUD?

By Matt Brock

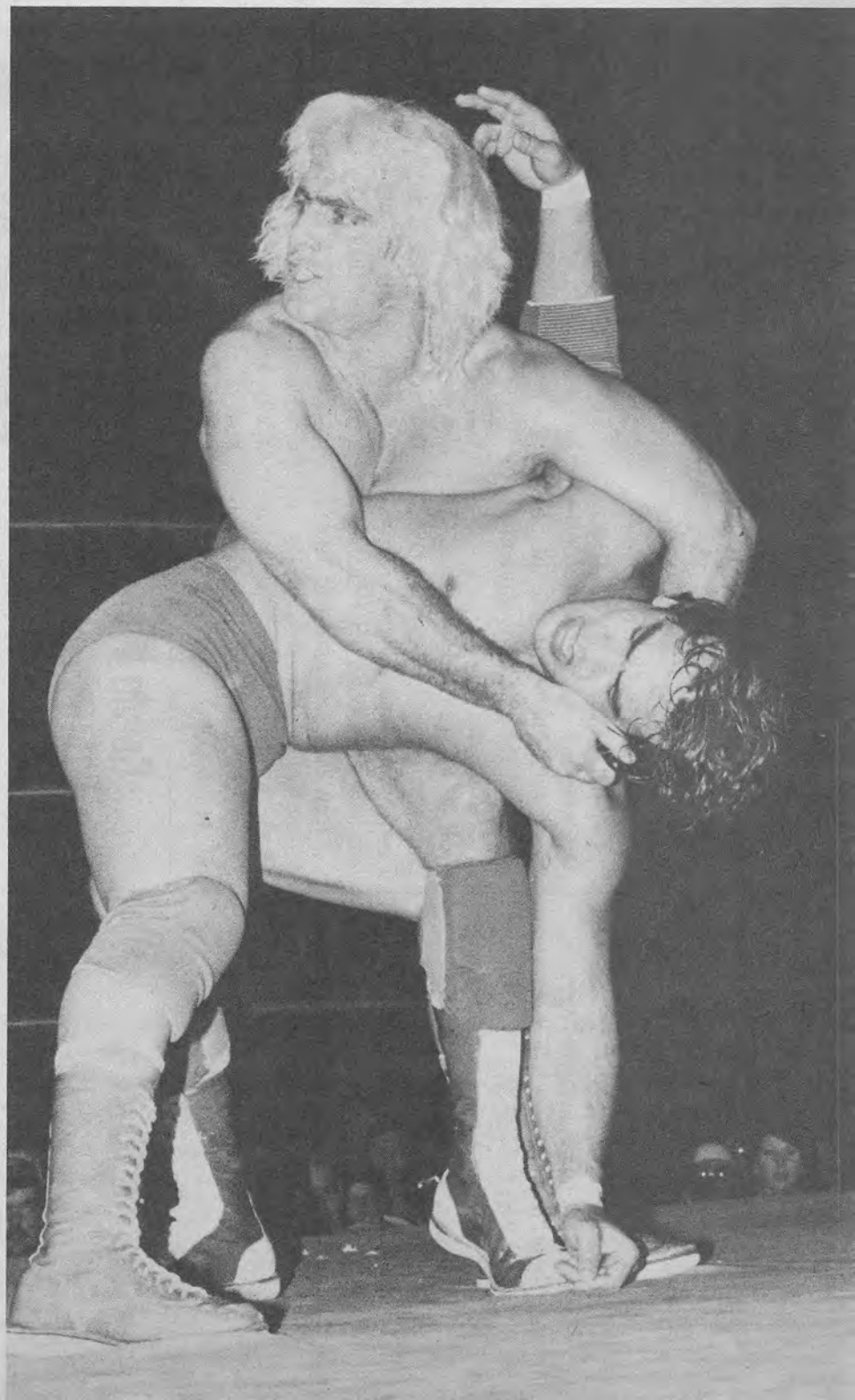
IT'S LIKE THE proverbial calm before the storm. Something's going to happen, my friends, because I can't see either man sitting still very long if this situation remains as it is.

Take Rick Steamboat. He's wrestled Ric Flair many times for the NWA World title, but he's always been able to maintain a sense of perspective about himself. He realizes he owes a lot to the fans. If he ever went off the deep end like Tommy Rich did a couple of years ago and told the fans to go to hell, he'd probably come to his senses immediately, just like "Wildfire" did.

Steamboat is a man of tactics. Once he steps into that wrestling ring, he uses all of his skills and knowledge to outsmart his opponent. He's not a brawler, and I don't think he ever will be. He's a thinking man's wrestler, the kind of an athlete who always keeps his head about him.

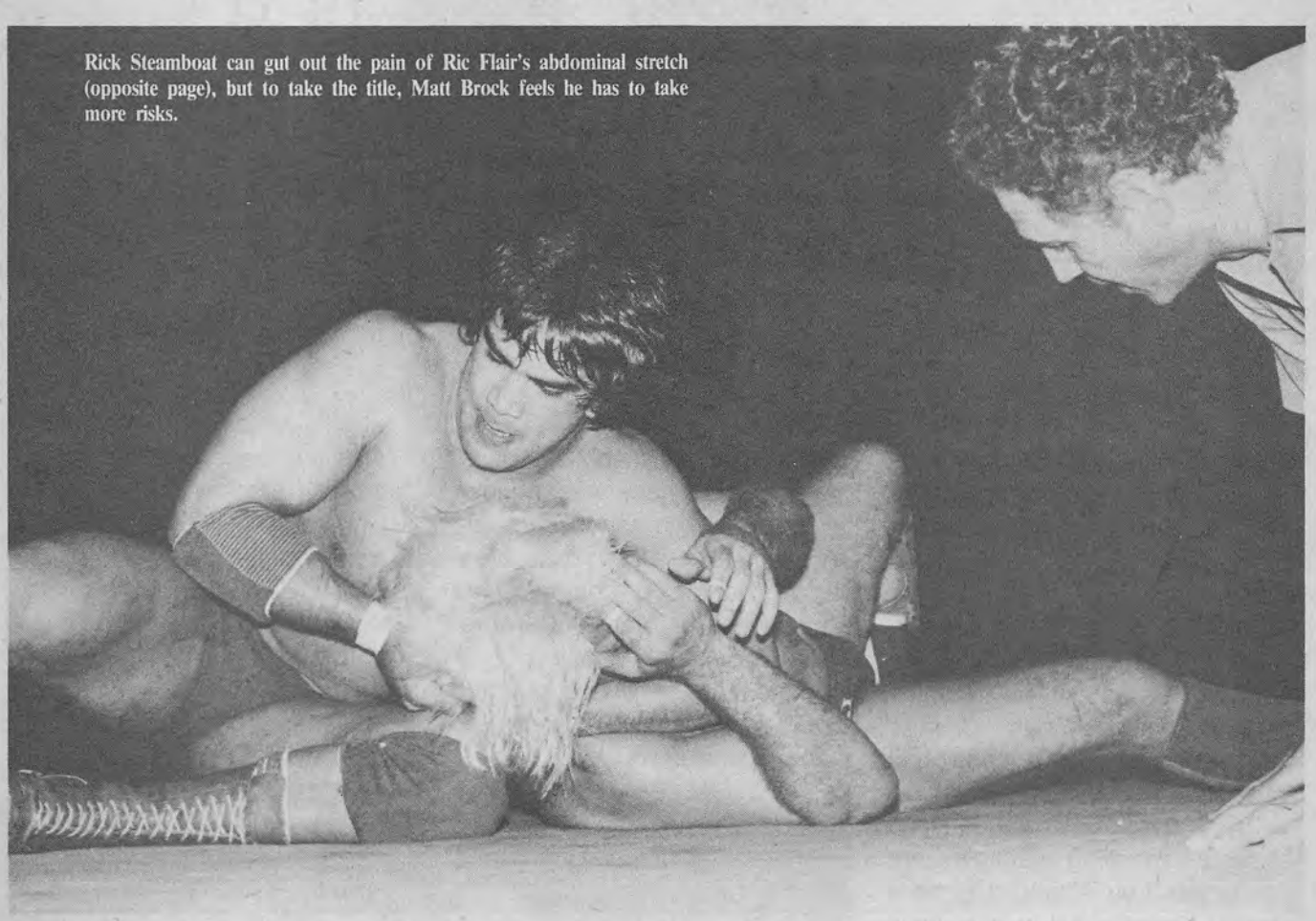
Then there's Ric Flair. He hasn't held on to the NWA belt for this long without having some special talents. Flair is able to absorb an incredible amount of punishment, then turn around and come back strongly after his opponent has worn himself down.

Flair is a man of action. He's not a brawler either, but he digs in hard during a match and is always prepared to go the distance necessary to defend his belt.

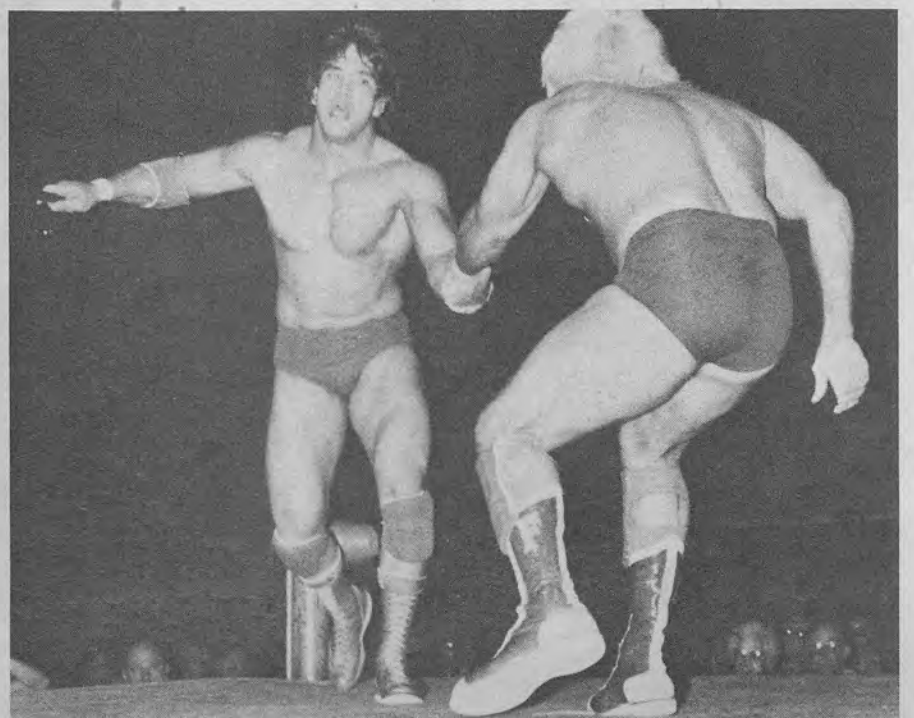


 Photos by Eddie Cheslock

All the elements are in place: The champion who will protect his title with all the fury and determination of a lioness protecting her cubs; the challenger who desires to capture the title more than anything else in the world; the fans who would like nothing more than to see the two men clash in the most grueling form of one-on-one combat imaginable. Will these elements produce competition or chaos?



Rick Steamboat can gut out the pain of Ric Flair's abdominal stretch (opposite page), but to take the title, Matt Brock feels he has to take more risks.



Nick Bockwinkel has the reputation of using his manager, Bobby Heenan, to save his title for him. Bob Backlund has the reputation of defending his title only against rulebreakers.

Ric Flair defends against anyone and everyone worthy of a title shot. In the world of professional wrestling, that's a common claim, but a very uncommon practice. Flair is an uncommon type of wrestler.

I've seen him go up against Steamboat, and I have to admit that they've been superb exhibitions of wrestling skill and expertise. As far as being able to defeat Flair, I think

(Continued on page 66)

LOOKING AT...

Matt Brock:

WOULD YOU BELIEVE that wrestling manager Don Carson has a dog that sings? Would you believe that this dog also plays piano?

Well it does, and I've seen it, and I only mention it because it's just another aspect of Carson's life that sets him apart from the rest of the mat sport's managerial fraternity.

This is a man who stands alone as far as wrestling managers are concerned. Lou Albano may be a lunatic, Skandor Akbar may be a crafty son of a gun, J.J. Dillon may be egotistical to the extreme, but I can't think of another man who is as subtle and effective as Don Carson.

So why haven't you heard more of him?

You see, Carson is a man of many interests. There are times when he would rather attempt to teach his dog Brahms' Piano Concerto No. 1 in D Minor, Op. 15, instead of teaching one of his charges new strategies.

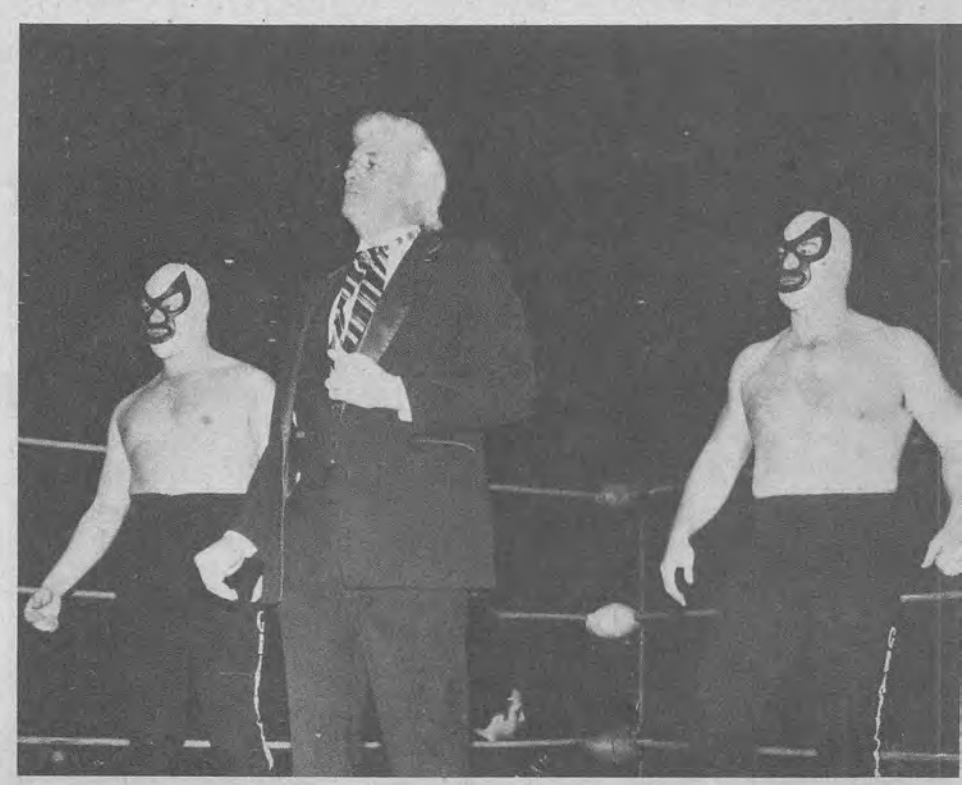
But when Carson decides he wants to put his mind to it, he's one of the most brilliant tacticians this sport has ever seen.

Take The Masked Grapplers, for instance. There was a time, not too long ago, when only one Grappler stalked the Texas area. Carson wanted a championship tag team, so he went out and recruited a second Grappler.

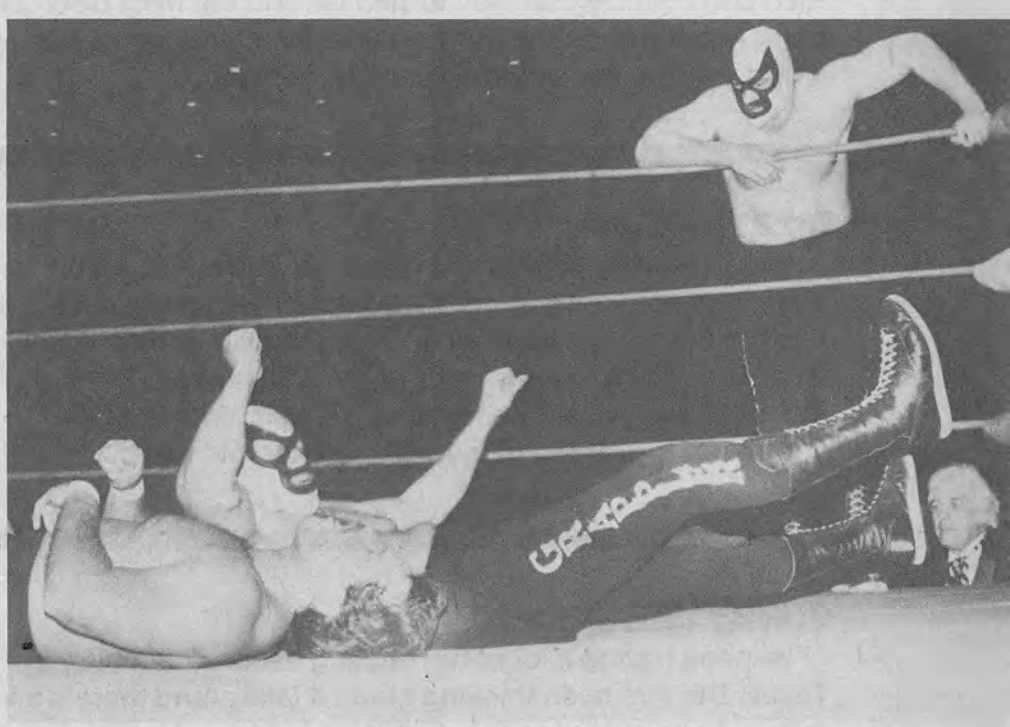
Sound easy? *You* go out and recruit a Masked Grappler. See how successful *you* are!

Anyway, the coup was not the fact that Carson managed to find a Grappler, but that he was able to train him so quickly and so efficiently in a way that the new Grappler's style blended so well with that of the first Grappler.

Before anyone knew what was happening, The Masked Grapplers had captured the Southwest



DON CARSON AND THE MASKED GRAPPLERS



Don Carson leads the Southwest tag team champion Grapplers into the ring (opposite page) and then leaves them to execute the strategy he prepared for them (top left and above).

tag team title.

You see them on television, on the USA Network. You see how The Grapplers steamroll over every team they face, and how Carson whispers strategies into their hooded ears at crucial junctures in their matches.

If so, you probably also saw how The Grapplers lost the belts to Gino Hernandez and Tully Blanchard. I call that match a fluke, particularly in light of the fact that there were undercurrents of hatred running between Gino and Tully.

Okay, so Gino and Tully won the belts, but they turned against each other, began their own feud, and forfeited their claim to the belts. And when a tournament was set up to determine the new Southwest tag team champions, who came out on top?

The Masked Grapplers, that's who, and it was no fluke. They're a tough team, a mean combination, a pair of brutes to be respected. That's why they've climbed to the number four position on the *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* tag team ratings list.

The reason for their tremendous success is, of course, Don Carson. He's a wily manager, a man who is constantly underestimated by his peers and his opponents. In the world of wrestling, underestimation is the most drastic mistake anyone can ever make. Carson's low-key style seems to cause everyone to make that fatal error.

It gives Carson an edge. It gives him a jump on his opposition. And 99 times out of 100, it gives him victory. □

WHAT THEY ARE SAYING

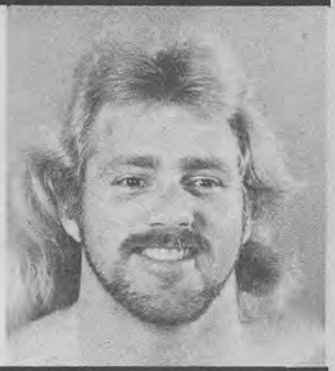
Every month, our reporters will compile wrestlers' most revealing quotes. Often catching the grapplers with their guards down, our reporters will work endlessly in obtaining interesting quotes on a variety of subjects.

OLE ANDERSON

"Look, I don't have much respect for Paul Orndorff and Tommy Rich, but I have even less respect for The Samoans. Those so-called wild men were apparently too afraid to wrestle Rich and Orndorff, so they turned tail and ran from Georgia. I don't know where The Samoans are wrestling today, but wherever it is, the wrestling can't be too good."

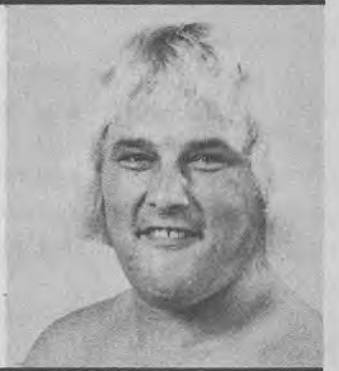
DIZZY HOGAN

"Look at me. Talk about raw materials, man. I've got a warehouse of 'em. I've got the moves, I've got the speed, and I've got the most incredibly sculpted body in professional wrestling. All I need now is time. Dick Slater and Greg Valentine better start heading for the hills. And Ric Flair, you're not too far out of my sights either, old man."



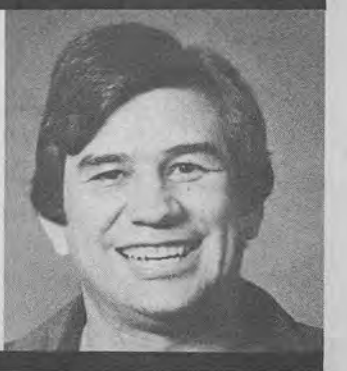
BOBBY JAGGERS

"I've been having a lot of fun busting heads down here in Texas. But I've been thinking about it lately, and there's a lot of money to be made in the world championship business. I see Ric Flair running around in Rolls-Royces. I hear that Nick Bockwinkel has a million dollar house. I'd kind of like that. Bring on those rich boys. I'll take them on."



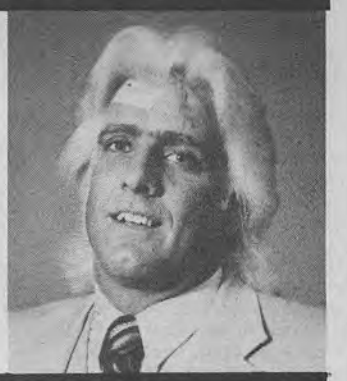
JERRY BRISCO

"You have to keep moving in this sport. You can't get too comfortable in one place. I've signed for some matches in Georgia, and who knows, I might stay there for a little while, but not too long. I hear they've got some challenging competition down there right now. I'll step into the ring with anyone."



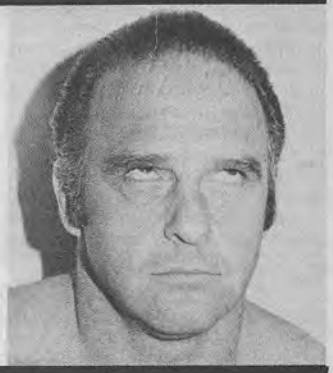
RIC FLAIR

"I dare someone to tell me that I don't deserve to be NWA World champion. I worked for years perfecting my craft, honing my skills, building my body, and building up a repertoire of holds. I faced some of the most dangerous men in the sport. And now that I am champion, I face all the toughest competition. See this cut on my head? I've even paid in blood for this belt. I'll never let it go."



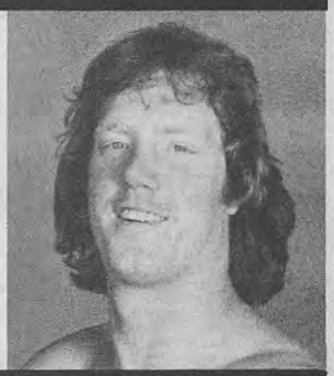
MARK LEWIN

"They call me the Purple Haze. I have been invited to come and assist Kevin Sullivan. There are people who don't understand the power. They don't understand the force that we possess. We will have to show them. There is no way Rhodes will be triumphant over the power. It is, and it will always be."



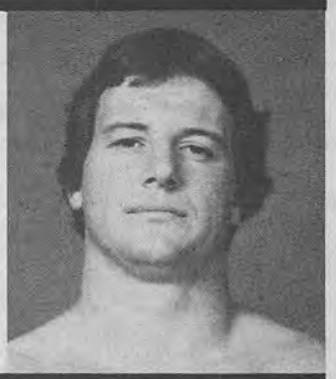
DAVID VON ERICH

"I was very surprised in what I saw of Jim Garvin. I didn't expect any kind of challenge from him, and he up and takes my World Class Texas Belt from me. I read all this stuff about him being so preoccupied with his little blonde valet. Well, she was something to look at, but I'd say he's wrestling even better because of her."



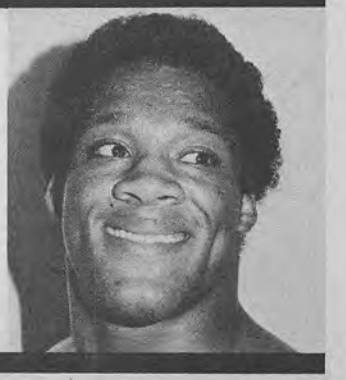
RODDY PIPER

"H & H. It must stand for Hopeless and Hapless. Imagine putting the IQ's of Gary Hart and Sir Oliver Humperdink together. It would look like a baseball score. I haven't seen any of those House of Humperdink cards at the arenas, but I have seen my Piper's Palace cards. I hope all my Florida fans are sending for their cards, too."



TONY ATLAS

"Ric Flair looks like Goldilocks these days. Did he stop rasslin' to keep his hair in shape, or is he just too busy changing creme rinses. Well, I'll tell you I don't care about his little blond curls. I'll use his head to sweep up the ring. I'm not used to fighting girls. How do you fight a girl like Ric Flair?"



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BETWEEN FALLS

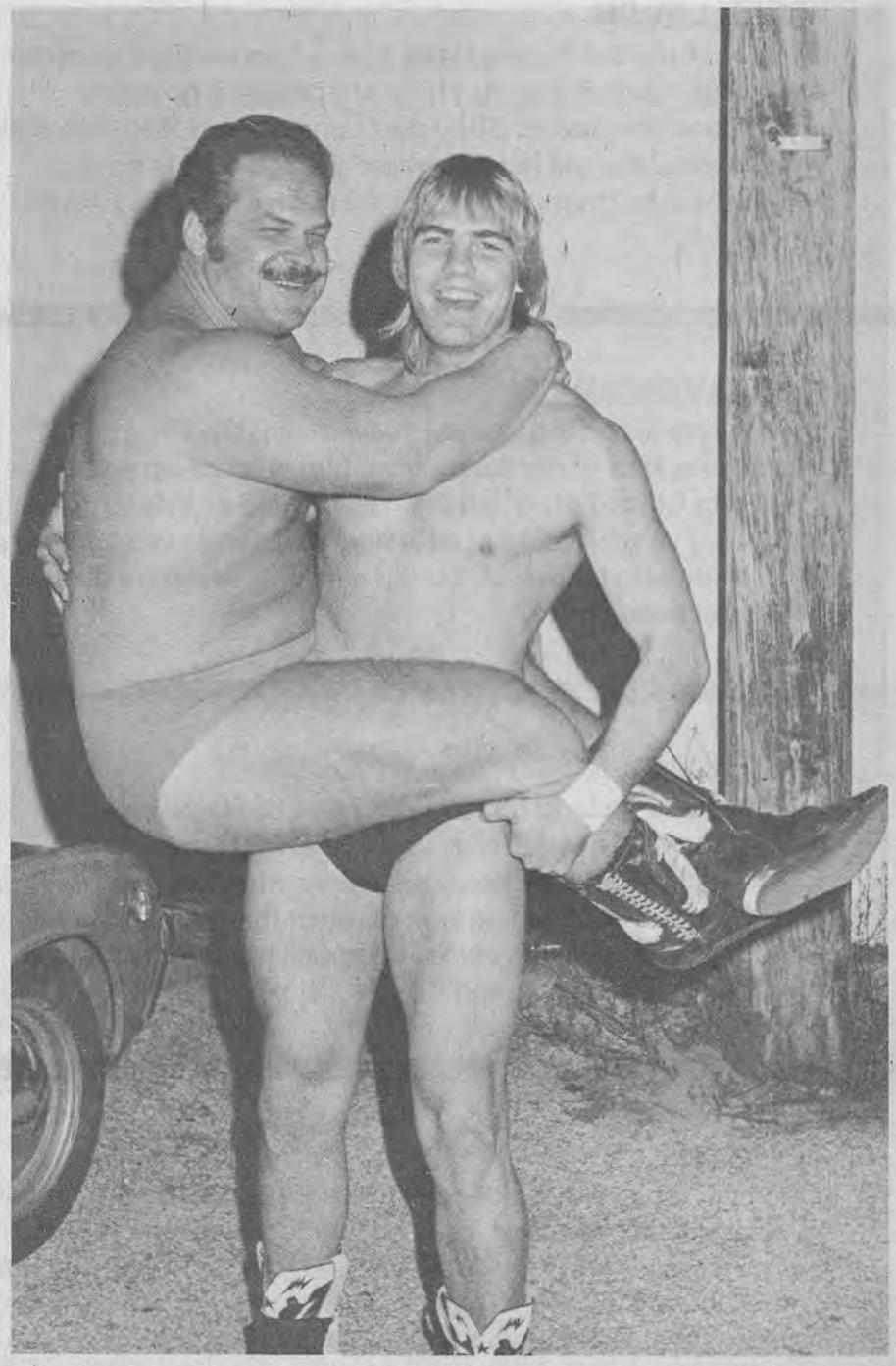
(Continued from page 6)

cornered feeling with Barry. I don't believe either man is trying to fill the shoes of Dusty Rhodes; they're just fighting for themselves. From the looks of it, they're doing a terrific job of it. I believe the only reason J.J. Dillon wants Barry out of wrestling is his fear of the young athlete. In closing, I say "Thumbs up!" to Barry Windham, Ron Bass, and *Pro Wrestling Illustrated.* Keep up the good work.

LEANNIE NELSON
Tampa, FL

PUT UP OR SHUT UP!

I read with interest the short article in *PWI*s May 1983 "Enquirer" on Joyce Grable, the lady wrestler who



Either Ron Bass is demonstrating a new variety of the legscissors, or he and Barry Windham are just clowning around. Bass, notes reader Leannie Nelson, has helped Windham in his struggle against J.J. Dillon's army.

Until Joyce Grable, or any other female wrestler, can do the same things in the ring a male wrestler can do, she does not deserve equal pay, in the view of reader Cathy Noggle.

refused to compete in the Omni's recent Battle Royal because the women's share was less than the men's.

Why does she think she should get as much as the men when she can't do half as much as the men do? Can she (or any other female wrestler for that matter) tear apart Chicago phone books like Otto Wanz? Can she hold an opponent (male, since she thinks she can wrestle them) over her head like Butch Reed or Tony Atlas? Can she do the exercises like the Iron Shiek with his 75-pound clubs? Can she hold a wrestling title (let alone *get* one) for an extended length of time and defend it against the competition that real champions like Ric Flair and Nick Bockwinkel face every day?

I doubt it. Therefore, unless she (or any other female wrestler who feels the way she does) can perform like the men, I think she should put up or shut up.

CATHY NOGGLE
Des Plaines, IL

BRISCO BAN IS CRAZY

Jack Brisco's call for the ban of the figure-four leglock is crazy ("Jack Brisco's Startling Declaration: 'Ban The Figure-Four Leglock!'" *Pro Wrestling Illustrated*/June 1983). How can he call for the ban when he is one of the people who uses it? How about calling for a ban on outside interference, wrestlers who use foreign objects to seriously injure a wrestler, and the piledriver. Jack, don't turn your fans against you.

WILLIE MONTGOMERY
Jacksonville, AR □

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KING'S COURT

(Continued from page 10)

"Take my word for it," said Lou Thesz, a six-time NWA champion, "Bruno would be as good as ever. Why, if anything, he left wrestling *before* he hit his prime! And I know. If I retired from wrestling at the same age Bruno did, I would've cheated myself out of my last two reigns as NWA champion. There's not a doubt in my mind that Bruno can become a world champion if he returns."

Bruno long ago earned the respect of Harley Race, as he has every wrestler who has either competed against him or seen him in action.

Others echo Thesz's words. Harley Race (another six-time NWA champion) expanded on Thesz's statement. "You ask me if Bruno could win a title if he returns," Race said. "Actually, the question isn't whether he'd win a title, but which one? That's how much I respect Bruno Sammartino. In fact, one of the hardest matches I ever wrestled was during my first title reign when I wrestled Bruno to a 60-minute draw. That was almost 10 years ago, and the funny thing is both of us are twice as good today as we were then."

Race brings up an interesting point. Which title would Bruno go for? One might think that the obvious first choice would be for Bruno to try to regain the WWF title. After all, most experts consider him the greatest WWF champion in history. But Sammartino, surprisingly, doesn't seem interested in his old belt.

"I would be wasting my time trying for the WWF title," Bruno told me. "Everyone knows Bob Backlund doesn't wrestle other scientific wrestlers. And I would never destroy the fans' trust in me by becoming a rulebreaker just so I could get a title shot. It's interesting, though, how many letters I get from WWF fans begging me to come back. But I don't think the promoters would ever let Backlund wrestle me. Doggone it, though, I would dearly love to see my old friends in New York and Pennsylvania and New Jersey. Perhaps I could go after Flair's NWA World title, and have the match signed for Madison Square Garden or the Spectrum or even the Meadowlands Arena. Now that would be the best of both worlds—going for the world title in front of my home fans."

As a longtime fan of professional wrestling, I think it is important that Bruno's place in wrestling history not be forgotten, especially by the younger fans. Even if he comes back and wins a world title, Bruno Sammartino could only hope to equal his past accomplishments, when he was the greatest and best-known wrestler in the world. No one, not even Bruno himself, will ever surpass this great wrestler's unique achievements.

Be careful of the unknowledgeable announcers and unscrupulous promoters who try to tell you that Bruno Sammartino was not the best champion of the past 20 years. If you ever have any doubts about who the greatest was, just remember the combined voices of millions of fans.

Bruno! Bruno! Bruno! □

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PWI/July 80
Color Starshot: The Sheik

PWI/Aug 80
Color Starshot: Koloff & Smirnoff

PWI/Sept 80
Color Starshots: Rick Steamboat, Humperdink's Army, Hulk Hogan

PWI/Jan 81
Color Poster: Bruno Sammartino

PWI/May 81
Color Poster: Mr. Wrestling II

PWI/Oct 81
Color Poster: Ted DiBiase

PWI/Jan 82
Color Poster: Magnificent Muraco

PWI/Feb 82
Color Poster: Tony Garea & Rick Martel

PWI/May 82
Color Poster: Ric Flair

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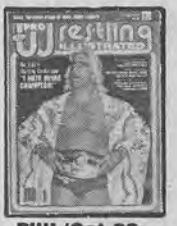
Color Poster: Blackjack Mulligan Jr.



PWI/Oct 82
Color Poster: Jerry Lawler

PWI/Dec 82
Color Poster: Rick Martel

PWI/Jan 83
Color Poster: Ken Patera

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AT RINGSIDE

(Continued from page 8)

but was instead hit over the head with Tully's belt! That *was not* an accident. Tully went totally berserk on his partner, as The Grapplers and their manager, **Don Carson**, watched in amazement. Gino finally was able to make a comeback and pounded Tully until he left the ring. The Grapplers attacked Hernandez at that time, but Gino was unstoppable. He floored both of them and manager Carson and received a tremendous ovation from the fans for his efforts.

The belts have been put up for grabs in a tournament, as neither Gino nor Tully want to wrestle as a team.

Paul Jones, manager of Mid-Atlantic champion **Dory Funk Jr.**, has now become the official manager of **Jake "The Snake" Roberts**. And insiders fear that the insidious manager is on his way to further damaging the mind of the once popular wrestler. Jones, aware of Roberts' former affiliation with **Kevin Sullivan**'s devil worshiping sect and the fact that are the ultimate in evil and must be done away with. It seems that Jake might have been better off with Sullivan!

The television medium has helped reunite a father and son whose differences in wrestling philosophy was thought to have spilt them apart permanently. **Blackjack Mulligan** was watching *Championship Wrestling From Florida* when he saw his son, **Barry Windham**, lose the Southern title to **Frank Dusek** as a direct result of **Angelo Mosca**'s interference. "Seeing that was a very emotional experience for me," admitted the rugged Texan. "Those two men were hurting my son, taking food out of his mouth. I realized at that point how much

Blackjack Mulligan would love to sink his claw into the heads of Angelo Mosca and Frank Dusek.

"I hate to see Dad like this," he told us. "Dad was the first holder of the Tennessee Southern title in 1974, and Lawler and his then-manager, Sam Bass, stole it from him. Dad never forgot this. So now that he is in Memphis where Jerry is loved by the fans, Dad doesn't give a damn what they think of him. He wants that title and wants to destroy Lawler in the process. I am really worried about him."

It is rumored that **Bobby Heenan** has put a $10,000 bounty on the head of **Hulk Hogan** *(see "Dressing Room Confidential," page 12).* Heenan reportedly does not want Hogan to have any more shots at the AWA title held by his charge **Nick Bockwinkel** . . . **Sheik Adnan-Al Kaissie** and **Crusher Blackwell** have been suspended from the AWA for repeated sneak-attacks and are vacationing in Hawaii. "We are happy to be out of that area for the time being," Blackwell says. "There is so much corruption—guys like **Jim Brunzell** and **Greg Gagne** paying off officials to let them keep their tag team belts—we couldn't stand it. We need this vacation."

Crusher Blackwell, who along with Sheik Adnan Al-Kaissie is taking an enforced vacation, has accused the AWA of being corrupt.

That's all for now. See you at ringside. □

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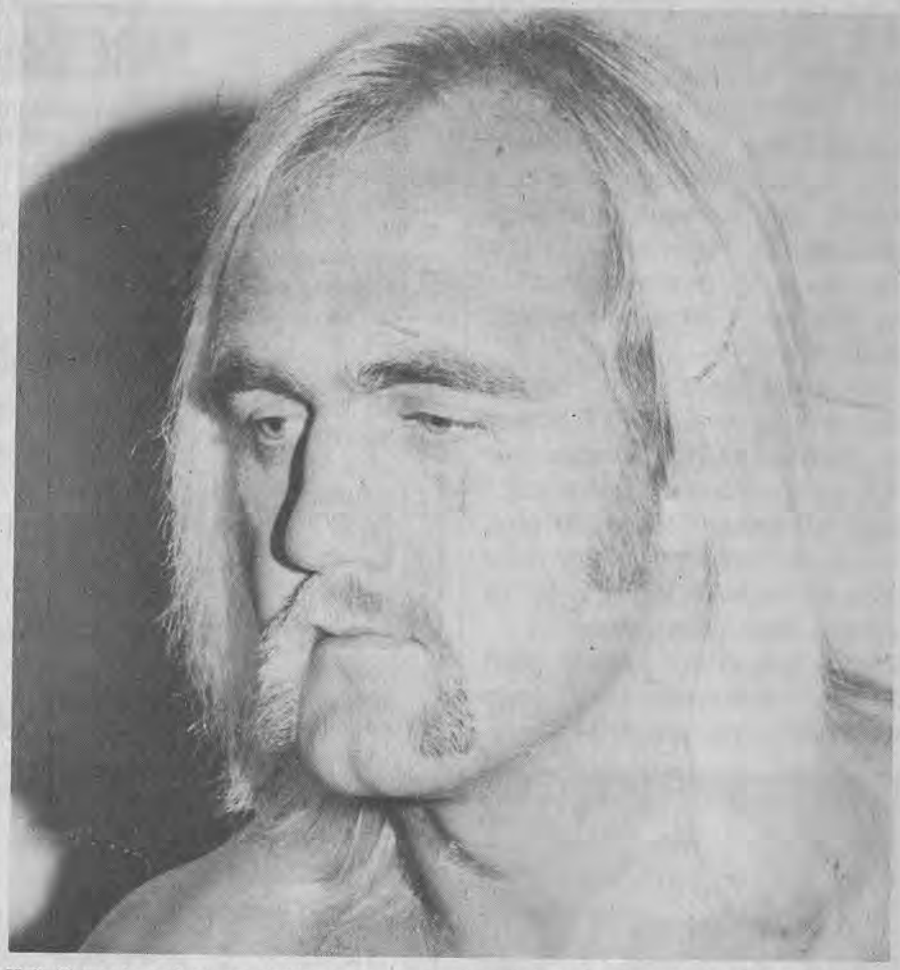
DRESSING ROOM CONFIDENTIAL

(Continued from page 12)



Hulk Hogan has a lot more on his mind than what he will do in the ring when he faces Bockwinkel. For 21 days he must live with the possibility that he is going to be attacked by one of Heenan's bounty hunters.

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***

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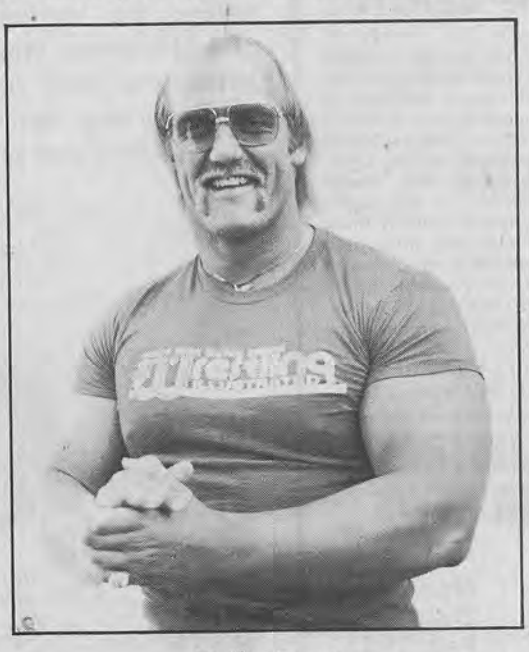

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ON ASSIGNMENT

(Continued from page 18)

This letter, as you can tell, raises several questions that I feel are important enough to be answered in my column.

First of all, I believe that one of my functions as a wrestling journalist is to report on more than just matches and results. There is plenty of room in the magazine for match results, and *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* reports this aspect of the sport extensively.

But I have the privilege of being behind the scenes at matches and of knowing these athletes on a personal level, a privilege that very few fans ever experience. I believe that I can provide readers with a perspective on various wrestlers that they wouldn't get anywhere else. I have always felt that it's a perspective that interests my readers, and most of the mail I receive agrees with me.

I like to add a very personal flavor to my writing, and if my readers feel that "all this kissy-face" is inappropriate to my reporting, I hope that I will receive more mail telling me so. I understand that this magazine is not called *Liz Hunter's Pro Wrestling Romances*. Indeed, *PWI* is a family publication. Frankly, I could be reporting on a great deal more about the wrestlers than I do, but discretion is the better part of valor in journalism.

Secondly, I am not in the habit of making up quotes; what Tony Garea and Jimmy Snuka say to me does not "come from my imagination." If you ever take any journalism classes, you will understand that the first thing you must learn is to be precise with your quotes. Otherwise, you're leaving yourself open to a lawsuit for libel.

Tony Garea, posing with two fans, had career problems a few months back that Hunter helped solve. "Under no circumstances would I ever tolerate any of my reporters fabricating quotes," says Editor-in-Chief Peter King. "As much as I hated to do it, I asked Garea if Liz's quotes were accurate, and he assured me they were."

Finally, Steve Farhood will not be returning to "On Assignment" due to overwhelming obligations in other areas vital to the production of the magazine. Like me or hate me, readers, I'm afraid you're stuck with me.

I want to thank Debi for writing, and I hope that she, and all of my readers, will join me here again next month. ☐

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PRESS CONFERENCE

(Continued from page 23)

was, and I was told that it was Mr. Olympia's bag.

APTER: That seems very strange, because the two of you were close friends for a long time.

WRESTLING II: Yes, we were, and I was really surprised about that at first. I confronted Mr. Olympia with the fact that I had discovered his suitcase, and all he did was make excuses. He had some people that were sticking up for him at first, Bill Watts for example, but I didn't believe it. I was steamed, and I let Olympia know it. And then Watts comes back to me a week later and says, yes, it was Olympia's bag.

PETERS: Why do you think he did that to you?

WRESTLING II: Who can say for sure? Jealousy, perhaps, or maybe he was being paid big money by someone else, maybe Akbar.

SHOCKET: But sir, what is there for Olympia to be jealous of? He's already surpassed you in terms of wrestling ability and popularity. The fact that he was toying with your masks is only a prank. I think you just can't take a joke.

WRESTLING II: I don't like you, Shocket, and I don't like what you're insinuating. Maybe I should toy with your face the same way Olympia toyed with my masks, and we'll see how much of a joke *you* can take.

APTER: Gentlemen, please, let's try and keep this discussion on a reasonable level. Maybe if we change the subject. Tell us about the tag team belts.

WRESTLING II: Ah yes, the TNT team: "T" for Tiger and "T" for II, the dynamite team of Tiger Conway Jr. and Mr. Wrestling II. We defeated Ted DiBiase and Matt Borne for the Mid-South tag team belts, and we're what's happening right now, brother. We have been putting the tag team belts up against the roughest and toughest teams in the sport. We recently turned back challenges from Super Destroyer and Masked Superstar, and we've got dozens of teams in line just waiting for the chance to wrestle for the belts.

PETERS: Tell us about how you and Conway work together in the ring.

WRESTLING II: Well, like I said, it's a dynamite combination. I've teamed with Conway in the past, and he's one of the most capable, experienced, and knowledgeable men in the entire sport. It's an honor and a privilege working with him. Our styles mesh extremely well in the ring.

PETERS: Explain.

WRESTLING II: You see, a successful tag team is composed of wrestlers who complement each other. If there are weaknesses in one man's style, the other man

makes up for them. When there are strengths in one man's style, the team member should be able to capitalize on those strengths. It's a rare combination that's successful, but in our case it works.

SHOCKET: Conway must be quite the superb wrestler to be able to make up for your . . .

APTER: Hey, Dan, that's . . .

WRESTLING II: That's all right, every man is entitled to his opinions.

SHOCKET: Thank you, sir.

WRESTLING II: It's just too bad that Shocket here is so narrow-minded about the sport. If he would open his eyes just a little bit, he might learn something someday. Thank you, Bill and Craig, for giving me the opportunity to reach the fans through your magazine. □

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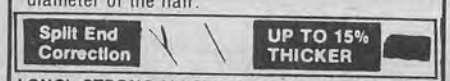

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WAHOO McDANIEL

(Continued from page 25)

opponents. He never wrestles the same way twice."

So why doesn't Heenan allow Bockwinkel to prove his superiority in the ring? "I'm saving the man's life. I don't expect him to understand it, but I am saving that stupid Indian's life. I could just imagine him huffing and puffing to keep up with Nick in the ring," Heenan said, feigning a heart attack, staggering back and forth clutching his chest. "Then, a massive coronary, and he's gone to that great reservation in the sky. I could see it now. The press would call Nick a killer. He doesn't need that kind of guilt trip on his head. No way."

But McDaniel, according to wrestling analysts, has proved himself worthy of a title shot. *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* AWA correspondent Charles F. Amberson witnessed Wahoo's recent matches against Jacques Goulet and Cowboy Bob Duncum, and filed this report:

Before I begin, I should mention how strongly I feel about Bobby Heenan's tactics. He can win a match for Nick Bockwinkel, even being miles away from the ring. He is a master of mind games. I've always felt that all the action should take place in the ring. Heenan is a distraction and a disgrace.

The matches I viewed showed me that Wahoo McDaniel is definitely at the top of his form. He has lost nothing in style, technique, power, or stamina since his last stint here in the AWA region.

Against Heenan's charge Bobby Duncum, Wahoo withstood a great deal of punishment. Duncum took the match outside the ring, crashing McDaniel's head into the official's ta-

McDaniel applies a rear chinlock on the younger and stronger Duncum. Wahoo feels—and many experts agree—that given the opportunity, he has the wrestling know-how to dethrone AWA World champion Nick Bockwinkel.

ble, and used his usual assortment of illegal maneuvers. Wahoo, however, absorbed all the torture and came back strongly. The man is hardly over the hill.

It seemed to me that McDaniel was playing with Jacques Goulet. McDaniel totally outclassed his opponent in this one, treating the spectators to an encyclopedia of wrestling holds. One of Wahoo's strong points is the way he uses the ring. He controls the action within those ropes as well as anyone in the sport. Chalk that up to experience.

Wahoo is definitely heading toward a match with Bockwinkel. I feel he will get it one way or another, even if the AWA has to mandate it. A Bockwinkel-McDaniel matchup will be very exciting. Bockwinkel is a fine competitor, despite Heenan's abrasive personality and less-than-honorable managerial tactics. Wahoo does know Bockwinkel better than any of the other contenders. It would be a good one. Definitely too close to call.

Heenan apparently feels the same way—and he's not taking any chances. □

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FLAIR-STEAMBOAT

(Continued from page 45)

Headlocks (above and opposite right) are good for wearing down an opponent, but Steamboat is attempting to wrestle the NWA World title away from a very protective champion. He has to be more aggressive.

Steamboat has as good a chance as anyone, and a better chance than most.

But he hasn't. He's come close, but he hasn't succeeded, and I think I know the reason why.

It hearkens back to what I said a little earlier, about Steamboat being a thinking man's wrestler.

You see, Rick Steamboat is the kind of a man who has the potential to lose his temper in the ring and forget his purpose. He has worked hard to maintain control over himself at all times. He wants to know where he is, what he's doing, why he's doing it, and the same things about his opponent.

This is the attitude that has brought Steamboat all the success that he has enjoyed in recent times. It is also the attitude that has prevented him from defeating Ric Flair.

You see, Steamboat's control has won him fans, it's won him many matches, but it is a style that is easily overcome by Flair. Steamboat may be the thinking man's wrestler, but Flair is no dummy. If he sees an opening, an opportunity to attack, he's going to capitalize on it. Steamboat doesn't give Flair many of those opportunities, but his style doesn't provide himself with any major opportunities for attack, either.

Steamboat has been told for years that in order to become NWA champion, he would have to learn to control his fiery temper. I think he might have gone too far. He's going to have to find a happy medium. He is going to have to take chances in matches without leaving himself open for attack. He is going to have to push the rules to their limits once in a while, without running the risk of getting disqualified. You cannot win if you do not play, and Steamboat is going to have to play the game of chance.

Let's face it: Flair is just too good, he's defeated Steamboat too many times already. Rick has got to pull an ace out of the hole in order to

win the title.

What this will do, in effect, is set up a feud situation between Steamboat and Flair. Up until now, the two men have not been enemies. Friends at times, rivals for certain, but not enemies. A feud situation would ignite the personalities of these two men, allowing Steamboat to draw on some emotional reserves and hopefully gain the extra push necessary to set Flair on edge and upset him for the belt.

Imagine Steamboat and Flair engulfed in a feud of the intensity of Buzz Sawyer and Tommy Rich, for example, or maybe Jimmy Valiant and Sir Oliver Humperdink.

Kind of sends a chill down your spine, doesn't it? I don't want to wish any ill will to Flair. I think he's an admirable champion, but I also think that Steamboat has the ability and skills to defeat Flair . . . if he'll only use them.

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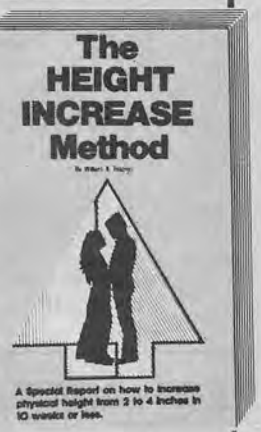

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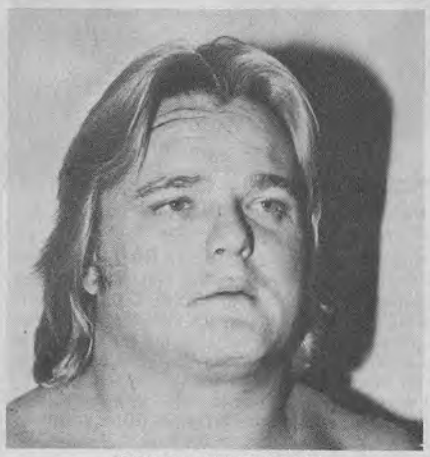

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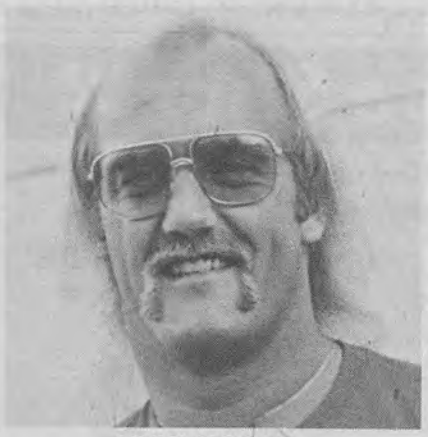

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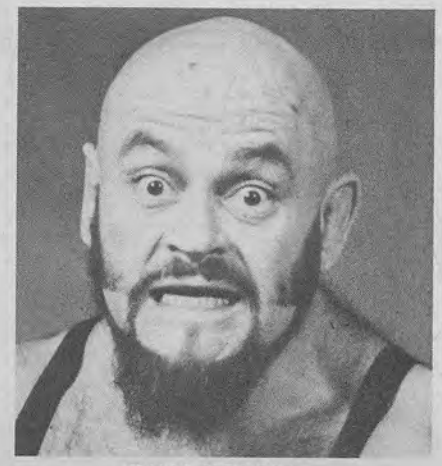

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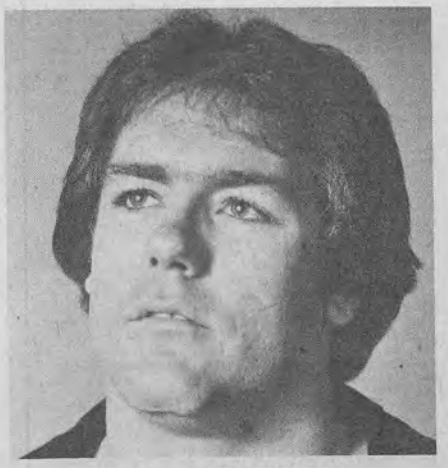

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By using these Witchcraft secrets, you too can change your life and gain health, wealth, someone to love—or anything else—surely, swiftly and automatically!

• **THE WITCH'S MONEY JAR!**—You'll discover the secret of the Witch's Money Jar, a mysterious jar that fills with money—whenever you want or need it! All you need is some water, pennies, and an ordinary jar or bowl! You'll be amazed at the speed with which it fills with money—a seemingly endless supply of needed cash!

• **THE WITCH'S MONEY MAGNET!**—You'll see how to magnetize a dollar bill so that it multiples! All you need to make your own Witch's Money Magnet is a dollar bill, a green candle, and the words on page 38. Once you do this, your dollar will double and keep doubling! You'll enjoy glittering luxuries, and start living like a millionaire, as Witches do!

• **THE WITCH'S BLACK MIRROR!**—Just as your TV set has been called your "window on the world," so the Black Mirror is your "window on the psychic world"—the world of the unknown. Making your own personal Black Mirror takes only a few moments and can open the way to unguessable visions. All you need is a bowl of water, some ink, and the chant on page 23. Suddenly you will see scenes from other places and times, or any scene you wish to see!

YOU CAN HEAL YOURSELF AS WITCHES DO!

Feeling sick today? Plagued by a lot of troublesome illnesses? Perhaps some relative is sick and constantly demanding your attention? Or perhaps it is even a pet that needs help? With the MAGIC POWER OF WITCHCRAFT, you can cure anything, say authors Gavin and Yvonne Frost: "In our experience . . . we have not found a single incurable disease!"

• **ANDY DISSOLVES A GALLSTONE!**—Andy M. developed gallstones. When his illness became too troublesome to ignore, he went to a doctor. Urine tests revealed that he was chronically alkaline. His body was badly out of balance. Using this Witchcraft method to restore balance to the mind and body—in a short while, X-rays showed that he had no more gallstones! Andy never again suffered the excruciating pain of passing stones!

In the same way, say Gavin and Yvonne Frost, almost all illness can be prevented. You are actually employing an ancient Witchcraft method to remove diseased tissue! Even if you do not have any belief in the results, the power will work for you!

One woman, who had been in a wheelchair for 26 years, due to polio and arthritis, used the Witchcraft healing method, and reported that she had no pain and could walk and garden again! A man reported that his son's deep 3rd degree burns miraculously healed overnight!

• **SO SIMPLE A CHILD USES IT!**—A 4-year-old girl asked if she could try to heal a man who was limping—due to a torn ligament—with this simple Witchcraft healing method. In a matter of moments, she started her chant, laying her hands on the weak ankle. The man was miraculously cured! To skeptics, this should be convincing PROOF that anyone can use it!

AMAZING POWER CAN BE YOURS!

Whether you want infinite wealth, or just a comfortable new home, financial security, fine possessions, love, companionship, new health and vigor, power to control others, secret knowledge, protection from evil, or anything else, the magic power of Witchcraft can bring it to you quickly, easily and automatically! It's the easiest thing in the world!

• **HOW TO SEE INTO THE FUTURE!**—Would you like to be able to see the future? You CAN with the magic Black Mirror you'll see how to make on page 23. All you need is some ink and a bowl of water. Then use the chant on this page, and you will be able to see many things. One man uses it to read tomorrow's newspaper. YOU can use it to check the stock market or that important horse race!

• **MAKE TIME RUN BACKWARD OR FORWARD!**—A Witch uses ancient methods to make time stand still or to run it backward or forward! To make your face look young or old at will, all you need is some morning dew, and the instructions on page 27. You can fly through time and space, on astral wings, go anywhere, do anything, with the simple method on page 126. You can visit a friend, look in on an acquaintance and see what he is doing—even appear in someone's dreams, and convince that person to do whatever you wish!

• **SECRETS OF SILENT PERSUASION!**—There is a magic handshake that Witches often use, revealed on page 62. With this secret, you can implant a thought in someone's mind! You can use this Witchcraft power to dominate others! Control your boss! Make someone love you! Leave your enemies groveling in the dust! There is even a gazing technique Witches use on page 45, for identical thoughts. With this secret, you can read your friend's mind and share his or her identical thoughts!

SEND TODAY FOR YOUR NO-RISK COPY!

Witchcraft can make you rich, even in a ghetto! You should never have to worry about the rent, or where the next dollar is coming from, never have to apologize to a boss! No matter how poor you are now, THE MAGIC POWER OF WITCHCRAFT can bring you a life filled to the brim with pleasure, wealth, and all the glittering luxuries of the world! To get your copy of this amazing Witch Book, simply fill out and mail the no-risk coupon!

MEET THE AUTHORS

GAVIN FROST, B.Sc., Ph.D., D.D., is Archbishop of the Church of Wicca, New Bern, North Carolina with national headquarters in Salem, Missouri, branches in several states and worldwide membership. He is Marshal of the Gold Star of England, with the right to wear the Saffron Robe and one of the very few Witches in the Western Hemisphere privileged to wear the authentic mark of initiation on his wrist. Although descended from a long line of mystics and scholars, and formerly a Vice-President and Director of International Operations for major aerospace companies, he prefers to be thought of as a humble teacher.

Mrs. YVONNE FROST, A.A., D.D., with her husband Gavin Frost, devotes her time to giving private instruction and publishing *Survival*, the newsletter of the Church of Wicca, of which she is a Bishop.

Articles by or about Gavin and Yvonne Frost have appeared in such national publications as *Midnight* and the *National Enquirer*.

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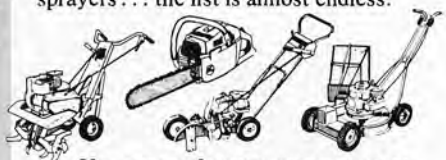

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